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THE FREE PRESS.

VOL. I] MONTREAL, THURSDAY, 3d JULY, 1823. [No. 38.

De ejus deliberatione et consultatione quartimus.

CICERO.

Let us now collect and record the debates and proceedings that have taken place.

LETTER ON THE MEDICAL BOARDS, *Continued.*

Ask "the president" as he styles himself, of the Quebec medical board, if what I have said relative to his withholding his certificate from his co-adjutor's shopboy until he had received one for his own apprentice, is untrue or otherwise? But save yourself the trouble of enquiring of the other, as he is in the habit of pleading that he has a *bad memory*.

You, most pithy Phineas, would, much to your honour and humanity, "kick out" of your examining room, "fools and numskulls," who are in reality, objects of compassion, though very unfit for the profession, to the study of which certain conscientious gentlemen may have induced them, *from the love of the fee!* But, "kick out" also, my good sir, drunkards, blackguards, upstarts, and all those whose main characteristics are, foppery and frivolity, and you will deserve well of a hitherto injured public.

Here I wish to turn round, and will put it to You, Mr. Editor, as a man well versed in "the lore of men and things," and to all just men, whether it can be right that the medical officers of the Montréal general hospital, should be the *sole* examiners for the district? Especially as these gentleman have, in a *lengthy, modest, and WELL WRITTEN* advertisement, asserted that there was heretofore no means of acquiring a knowledge of the profession, here in Canada; which they now propose to impart, in great perfection, in the medical school which they have established; and they further declare that no candidate shall pass their ordeal, if in *their* estimation he is not well qualified. Hence, is not the conclusion that it is natural to draw from such premises, that they will admit to the practice of the profession, none but their own élèves, to the exclusion of all others?

For my part I do not see any just reason why medical students should not be examined in the same manner as those of lawyers and notaries are; whose examination is public, and to whom every member of the profession has the privilege of proposing questions; and the consequence of this wise regulation

is, that those professions are seldom disgraced by the scenes of party-spirit and injustice, which but too often occur in the other.

To rebut all the sophistry of the shrewd Phineas would be to take up too much space in the interesting sheets of this truly useful paper, which is the only vehicle through which injustice or injury can be exposed, and complaints find vent, or hope of justice from an impartial world.* But Phineas, your shallow artifice must not go without being unmasked. You would wish to interest the public in behalf of yourself and associates, by insinuating that I desire to injure the reputation of the founders or promoters of the hospital, and also of the hospital itself; this I flatly deny, nor can such a conclusion be drawn from any thing I have written. Of the gentlemen who are the fathers, as it were, of this institution, it would be base and wicked to say any thing irreverent or improper, as I am fully convinced: that their intentions were as praiseworthy, as they were liberal in subscribing for its support, and bringing it to its present state of maturity, (the building and appurtenances, I mean,) and magnificence. The only one of those gentlemen who at all merits obloquy, is that determined enemy of every thing that is Canadian, that radical subverter, that witless intriguer, that man of accommodating conscience, *the honourable Mr. Busybody of Montreal* † It was he alone who lent his ear to the crafty suggestions for the establishment of this monopolizing medical institution; and he, by his wily insinuations, induced Lord Dalhousie to sanction an act, which, it is certain he would now willingly abrogate, could it well be done, and preserve appearances.

The private characters of all men should be held sacred; but

* The complimentary phrases of "useful paper," "interesting miscellany," "excellent work," &c which are generally made use of by correspondents in addressing us, editors, although, in fact little more than tantamount to the common and unmeaning close of a formal letter, in which the writer professes to be "your most faithful and obedient humble servant," are nevertheless (and I speak it from my own feelings,) copied with more complacency than we should attach to mere "words of course." But, if there is any one characteristic in which I pride myself more than another in my writings, it is the fearless impartiality, that is here attributed to me; that I pay no respect to persons or places, when indignant animadversion is called for; that I call things by their right names, and do not misce matters, but go strait to my object, following the maxim of the French poet, Boileau.

"Je ne puis rien nommer, si ce n'est par son nom ;

J'appelle un chat un chat, et Rolet un fripon ;"

† No one will be at a loss to know who A FRIEND TO TRUTH means.

their public conduct belongs to us all ; and when they deviate from that line of rectitude which they are bound to follow, they are open to censure, and deserve no mercy.

On this unpleasant subject it is probable this will be my last communication, if I am not compelled to enter the lists again with the champions and amanuenses of the hospital ; and I can not better conclude this long paper, than with the following feeling lines of the poet,

“Cursed be that verse, how smooth so e'er it flow,
That tends to make one worthy man my foe.”

A FRIEND TO TRUTH.

In No. 84 I expressed my wishes and hopes that, previous to entering upon the proposed *General review of the last session of our provincial parliament*, I might be favoured with communications on the subject, from such gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and the House of Assembly, as might be inclined to call my attention to any particular or prominent topics, debates or proceedings. I considered it as an homage of respect due to those honourable bodies, to transmit a copy of that number, to all the members of both houses with whose addresses I was acquainted ; and did so, indiscriminately, both to unionists, and anti-unionists ; both to those who are attached to the Scotch, and the Canadian, interest ; to government-men, and popular members ; with a view of having it understood, that I was willing and wishful to publish and preserve, in this historical record, what might be wished to be said by all, on both sides of each momentous question that was brought forward during the session. I must say that, as yet, I have had less assistance in that respect than I had flattered myself with ; but I trust that, in the course of the review I am now commencing, I shall be able to enrich it with additional information, reports, and speeches : as I believe few of the gentlemen I took the liberty of sending that intimation to, would be inclined to act as have done,

THOMAS THAIN, *Esquire, member for the East Ward of the city of Montreal, &c*

CHARLES R. OGDEN, *Esquire, member for Three Rivers ;*
who refused to receive their numbers, and returned them through the post-office.

L. L. M.

GENERAL ABSTRACT and REVIEW of the last session of the
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT of LOWER CANADA, in January,
1823. Being the third session of the eleventh provincial parliament.

Public expectation was much raised, and curiosity and interest alike awakened, as to the provincial parliament which was convoked for the 10th of January 1823. The prominent and momentous question of the projected union between the two

provinces, was expected to be discussed, in both houses, in all its bearings; and the state of the province, of the administration, of its revenues, and its commercial relations, were objects that all required ample consideration, and, in most instances, measures of redress, regulation, correction or improvement. The pecuniary difficulties that had arisen, and been felt, through every branch of the public service, by the differences between the governor and the assembly, with respect to the mode of granting the civil list, required at least temporary, if not permanent, relief and arrangement; and a large amount of public business had accumulated by the regular process of parliamentary proceedings having, in former sessions, been suspended, interrupted, or curtailed, by the discussions of constitutional questions, and matters relative to privileges, principles, and rights, which had occupied a very large proportion of the time and attention of all the three branches of the legislature of late years, during the generally short periods for which the parliament had sat in Quebec. The time when this session commenced was rather late in the season; and a number of members rather more than usual at the opening of a session, formed a House of Assembly,* on Friday the 10th of January.

Their first measure was, of course, to choose a speaker, the Hon. L. J. Papineau, who had, for a considerable time, filled the chair of the house, with the utmost ability, and with the esteem and respect of all parties, having been appointed as one of the commissioners of the province, to convey to England, the petitions from all parts of the country, which had, during the preceding months, been prepared and signed, against the intended union.

Louis Bourdages, Denis Benjamin Viger, and Thomas Tachereau, Esquires, were respectively proposed as speakers, and the question being put separately as to each, passed in the negative; Joseph Remi Vallieres de St. Real, was then unanimously called upon by the House to take the chair, to which he was forthwith conducted, and, in a neat speech of a few words, expressed himself truly sensible of the high honour the house had conferred on him.

The house then, adjourned, and, on the following day, their attendance having been required by His Excellency the governor in chief in the Legislative Council chamber, after His

**The members of the Assembly present, were, Messrs. Tachereau, Taché, Robitaille, Paré, Davidson, Louis Lagucux, Bourdages, Proulx, Dessaulles, Franchère, D. B. Viger, Lambert Dumont, Augustin Perrault, Joseph Perrault, Heney, Rochon, Deligny, Ogden, Arcand, Langcwin, Neilson, Clouet, Valfrès de St. Real, Stuart, Belanger, McCallum, Etienne C. Lagucux, Pand, and Quirouet.—29.*

Excellency's approbation and confirmation of the choice of their speaker, had been given, they were addressed from the throne, in the following speech.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"Since I last met you here, the whole system of the navigation laws with the general circumstances of British and colonial commerce have been brought under the consideration of the Imperial Parliament, and two acts have, in consequence, been passed, materially affecting the trade of this province by sea.

Another act has also been passed regulating our trade with the United States of America, and our intercourse with Upper Canada, and providing for an adjustment of the differences subsisting between the two provinces. I have ordered copies of these three acts to be laid before you.

I am commanded to inform you that His Majesty's ministers proposed to Parliament certain alterations in the act 31st Geo. III. cap. 31, principally with a view to unite into one, the two Legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada, but this measure was withdrawn and postponed to the next session, in order to afford an opportunity of ascertaining the sentiments of the people of these provinces upon it.

I have no doubt you will give your early attention to a subject of such general importance, and I have only to express my hope that your deliberations upon it will be marked by that moderation which is best calculated to give weight and effect to such representations as you may see fit to make.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

No bill of appropriation having passed the last session to enable me to meet the expenses of the civil government, you must be aware of the difficulties and embarrassments thereby thrown upon me.—I have endeavoured as much as I could, to avert the great inconvenience to the public, which I stated in my message to you of the 8th February last, by paying up the usual established expenses for the half year then current, but I have not felt myself justified in doing so beyond that period, and there consequently remains a very considerable arrear due to several of the public servants.

I shall direct a full statement of the course I have adopted, together with accounts of the receipt and expenditure for the year, to be laid before you, and I shall submit to you, by estimate, the probable expense, in this year, of these local establishments and objects of public charge, for which, according to the principles stated to you in that message, it is my duty to call upon you to provide.*

For this message, which it is very important to keep in view, see the letter of CARDO, in Free Press, No. 16.

I trust that in the course of this session you will take into consideration the whole financial accounts which have been furnished at your request during the last two years; I have given, and am still disposed to give every facility in my power to enable you to examine and bring these long standing accounts to a clear and final arrangement: and I must say that I see little difficulty in accomplishing the task.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

I am convinced that every member of this legislature must regret that the progress of the public interests for some years past, has been so materially interrupted. I will not therefore on this occasion dwell upon past events; the remedy lies in your hands, and to you I leave it with my most earnest recommendation, that you will seriously consider the incalculable injuries, which have been, and must continue to be accumulated on the province, while the Executive branch of the constitution remains disabled from exercising its just and legitimate and most useful powers.

Many subjects of the greatest moment demand your consideration, and I shall communicate with you upon them in detail, most anxiously hoping to find you assembled in that spirit of moderation and of honourable zeal which alone can lead to a full and faithful discharge of your duties to your sovereign and your country.⁴⁰

The House of Assembly of Lower Canada, considering themselves with great propriety, as a counterpart in this country of the Commons' House in England, endeavour to follow, as nearly as possible, the usages, customs, and forms of proceeding, etc. of their august prototype. They are of course equally tenacious of their privileges; and therefore, as usual, on their return from the Legislative Council chamber, before proceeding to take notice of the governor's speech, after Mr. Speaker had reported that the House had been in the Legislative Council chamber, when His Excellency had been pleased to approve the choice they had made of him to be their Speaker, and that His Excellency had been pleased to say he would put the most favourable construction upon his words and actions, (free liberty of speech and debate being claimed on those occasions by the speaker for the assembly,) they caused;

A bill, for the better regulation of the fisheries in the inferior district of Gaspé to be presented to the House, and read a first time.

The principle upon which such a mode is always adopted, it may be necessary to explain to some of my readers, is, that, by proceeding forthwith to business of their own, the house assert their right, when assembled, to carry on the public business committed to them, without reference to, or requiring the sanc-

tion, recommendation, or interference of the Executive government.

After this Mr. Speaker reported to the house and read His Excellency's speech, and a committee of seven members was appointed to prepare the draft of an address in answer.

The following committees were also appointed, viz:

A committee of privileges.

A grand committee of agriculture and commerce. to sit every Wednesday in the house.

A committee of good correspondence between the two houses, with an order to communicate the said resolution, by message, to the Legislative Council.*

The journals were ordered to be printed for the use of the members.

A motion was made by Mr. Taschereau to reduce the quorum of the house from twenty-six as it stood last session, to fifteen, the consideration of which was postponed.

Mr. John Neilson, member for the county of Québec, being one of the deputies appointed to proceed to England, along with the late speaker, with the petitions against the union, obtained leave of absence till the end of the session.

A petition from George W. Allsop and others, praying for a prolongation of time in building a bridge over the Jacques Cartier River, having been presented, and referred to a special committee, the house adjourned till Monday.

(To be continued)

Although the communication of news is not the object of this paper; the following very late accounts from Europe which I have received, by the arrival of the ship London, Capt. Caudler, at New-York on the 23d June in 34 days from the Isle of Wight, will be read with interest by all the well-wishers to the cause of liberty and of Spain; and as they differ in some respects from the particulars given in the postscript to the New-York Spectator, may have a novelty attached to them that may render them acceptable to my subscribers.

London, 17th May, 1823.

The former account that Mina had thrown himself in the rear of the French army between it and the frontiers, is fully

*The appointment of a committee for keeping up a good correspondence between the two houses, is a singular proceeding, but it shews the desire manifested by the House of Assembly, of harmonizing with the other branches of the legislature, notwithstanding the repeated bickerings, and the opposition almost systematically practised in the council against every popular measure.

confirmed, and it is allowed on all sides that this movement was of the utmost importance to the cause of Spain.

Letters had been received at Paris, which announce positively that GENERAL MINA HAS INVADED FRANCE. This news produced great excitement at Paris, and astonished every body: Great uneasiness prevailed, and the funds continued to decline. The garrison of St. Sebastian have made a sally, by which the French suffered considerable loss.

Paris, May 15, 4 o'clock, P. M.

Mina has entirely outgeneralled his antagonists, both the French and the Spanish royalists—both regular officers and men of the faith. A dispatch arrived this day from marshal Moncey, dated the 18th, in which the marshal announces a severe check to the invading army. It was the intention of the commander of the united French and Spanish forces to compel Mina to fight near Vich, or to drive him within the walls of Barcelona. For this purpose all the divisions of their army had been manœuvring for ten days. The constitutional general saw their intentions, and entirely defeated them. Instead of retreating by Olot and Castelfollit, upon Campiedon, Mina turned right upon Ripoll, drove before him Ramagossa and a division of French troops, and, with the greatest part of his force has marched upon Berga. He has now a free passage into Aragon. Having gained the valley of the Segra, he can either proceed to Lerida, occupy Cerdagne, or threaten the rear of the allied troops in Catalonia. This able movement excites the admiration of his antagonists. Some of them will be reprimanded; and others most likely recalled for allowing themselves to be so out-generalled. Curial, D'Eroles, and Donnadieu, have got orders to exert themselves to repair the fault which they have committed, but that will not be in their power. Mina and his troops are accustomed to the mountains and the climate. The French are already suffering from heat, scanty subsistence, and fatigue, and there is no chance now that they can do any thing in Catalonia.

It is currently reported that general Donnadieu has been defeated by Mina. Moncey has ordered the generals engaged to be reprimanded; at the same time, orders have been given to palliate their fault, by saying that Mina is flying before them.

However much the French official papers endeavour to conceal the truth, it is evident that they must have sustained some serious reverse in Catalonia, since the advance of the French army, which the last accounts left at Valladolid, have made a retrograde movement to Burgos. This, however they say, is to avoid a collision with the Portuguese army.