

mother country, could be secured to the colonies, vigorous Executives sustained by popular sentiment, would everywhere infuse energy and vitality into Provinces rendered lifeless and inert by the benumbing torpor of the old colonial system.

The contrast which Nova Scotia presents to the British Islands at the present moment would seem to indicate the necessity for some security against the abuse and utter abnegation of privileges assumed by her people to have been secured by many sacrifices, and which, since the power of the Representative Branch was successfully asserted over the Government in 1848, have been regarded as sufficiently ample.

The Parliament of England was dissolved on the 23rd April. The writs were returnable and the new Parliament was assembled on the 31st May, and within a few days a hostile vote was passed, a new cabinet was formed, the ministers were re-elected, and the practical value of British institutions and the vital power of public opinion were happily illustrated, in the presence of contending armies and the despotic powers of the European continent unaccustomed to freedom, and of many provinces of the Colonial Empire, which would speedily become republics, but for their belief in the applicability of British Constitutional guards and usages to the wise administration of their affairs.

In Nova Scotia Parliament was dissolved on the 15th April. On the return of the writs on the 1st of June, it was apparent that the administration had been beaten at the polls—that public opinion had condemned their policy—that their defeat, taking into consideration all the circumstances under which the elections had been run, was palpable, decisive, and humiliating. The points which have been decided, upon issues formally raised and simply debated in the Assembly and at the hustings, were:

First. That the public works of Nova Scotia, upon which nearly a million of money has been expended, and large sums are continually being disbursed, should be replaced in the charge of those by whom they were designed, and rescued from the control of persons who were hostile to their inception, and are believed to have no great anxiety for their successful development.

Second. That traitors to the Queen's Government, who thwart its policy and correspond with its enemies in time of war, shall not, after proof of the fact, be patronized by the Provincial Administration.

Third. That no religious body combining for political purposes shall control the Government in Nova Scotia, or if they do, that a higher combination shall control them.

Fourth. That public officers of unblemished reputation should not be summarily and unjustly dismissed from the public service.

Upon each and all of these questions there was a solemn decision by the people of this country on the 12th of May, yet on the 25th of July I am compelled to enquire of Her Majesty's Government why an election should be utterly fruitless in Nova Scotia, which in England under similar circumstances is followed by the assembling of Parliament and the reconstruction of the Cabinet.

As leader of the successful Opposition, I assume that I have a right to make this enquiry of Your Grace, having exhausted, as you will perceive by the correspondence enclosed, every legitimate resource presented by the anomalous and peculiar posture of affairs in Nova Scotia.

Finding that the Earl of Mulgrave did not assemble Parliament or reconstruct his Cabinet, and perceiving that the organs of his Government claimed for the administration a majority as a reason why neither was done, on the 30th June the memorial signed by myself and twenty-eight other gentlemen, comprising a clear majority of the new Parliament, was prepared and presented. It may be said there is no precedent for such a step, but I humbly submit to Your Grace whether it should not have been rendered unnecessary by the action of the Queen's Representative, and whether the ordinary sources of intelligence open to all the world should not have been found sufficient here, as they would have been in England, to relieve a parliamentary majority from the necessity of establishing its existence.

In that memorial Your Grace will perceive we state a most important fact, which it was proper that His Excellency should know from an authentic source, and we respectfully offer an opinion which we should have failed in our duty to the country whose feelings we represent if we had not expressed.

In the answer which, after three weeks of deliberation, has been returned, we are informed that His Excellency has no power under his "instructions" but to "accept advice" from those who have lost the confidence of this country. If this be so, then have the instructions been strangely misunderstood. And if the prerogative is so utterly powerless, and the Royal Commission places the Queen's Representative in this and the other North American Colonies in the helpless position from which Colonial Reformers fondly hoped they had rescued all Governors by their struggles and sacrifices, from 1837 to 1848, then it is manifest all parties have been deceived, and that Responsible Government is but a delusion and a snare. If a defeated administration have the right, in defiance of public opinion, to mis-govern a British Province for nine months, after the "well-understood wishes of its people" have been expressed at the polls—if they will neither retire nor assemble Parliament—and if the Governor, knowing they are no longer sustained by the people, permits them to expend funds which they have no majority to vote, and to dispense patronage for the advantage of the minority, Your Grace will not be surprised that I respectfully desire to know whether such a violation of Responsible Government, such an entire disregard of all the principles which in the mother country guard the rights of public

men and secure the liberties of the people, has the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. If it has, then Your Grace must not be surprised should the in-coming administration decline to pay monies which have been squandered without the consent of Parliament, by an Executive that has forfeited public confidence, and claim from the Queen's Representative the cancelling of appointments made at the instance of men who are in no condition to advise him. Nor will Your Grace be surprised if British subjects seek to guard themselves by every constitutional means from the possible recurrence of a state of things against which I deeply regret that the exigencies of my public position make it my imperative duty to protest.

The present administration went to the country with a majority of eight, equal to a majority of ninety in the House of Commons. This majority was lost, and the Cabinet found themselves in a minority of three, equal to a minority of thirty-six in the House of Commons, and the disproportion will probably be increased by the restoration of seats given to the Government by palpable violations of the law. May I not respectfully ask Your Grace whether any administration would in England hesitate, under such circumstances, to assemble Parliament or to tender their resignations.

But Your Grace should be informed that this election was run under a law hurried through both Houses in the last session in the face of the most strenuous opposition, never submitted to the country nor reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's approval, and by which the entire representation of the Province was changed in such a manner as to secure to an unpopular Government every advantage that they could desire. The Opposition had to meet them under their own law, and with all the advantages it gave them they were honorably and fairly defeated. Every leading member of the Opposition was triumphantly returned. I threw myself into the county represented by the Provincial Secretary, and came in at the head of the poll. The Financial Secretary and another member of the Cabinet were thrown out by large majorities, and for nearly three months the officer who is our Chancellor of the Exchequer has been without a seat in Parliament. The Leader of the Administration only obtained a seat by a majority of seventeen in a fine county where for fifteen years his majorities were counted by hundreds. Such a defeat as this, no Ministry in any country, taking all the circumstances into account, perhaps ever sustained. It is apparent to all British America, except to those who desire to obstruct the course of regular government by clinging to their places after they have ceased to enjoy public confidence.

I may be told that some of the members elect are disqualified because they did not resign paltry offices never contemplated by our Legislature nor regarded as offices of "emolument." Such an objection would apply to members on both sides, but it is a mere device. The men have been returned by the several sheriffs as elected. Nothing can debar them from being sworn in and taking their seats, and their qualifications are to be judged by the House and by its Committees, which alone in this country as in England can adjudicate upon such questions; and I protest against the right of the Executive Government to speculate upon the issue of decisions of which the British Cabinet never ventures to take cognizance.

It may be thought that it is safe to try this experiment in Nova Scotia as it was tried in 1847 by the same party who are attempting it now, but it will scarcely be contended that it is to be received as the Colonial rule, and to extend to larger and more influential Provinces.

The expense of a summer session has been urged as an objection, but the additional cost will be trifling, and the majority of the House who are willing to incur it are the parties most competent to judge of its propriety.

The practice of holding the annual sessions of Assembly only at stated periods in the winter is much better adapted to the old system, in which the representatives of the people had little or no authority, than to the new, in which they are the source of power. It has been departed from besides in this Province on three occasions—in 1844, 1851, and 1854, when extra sessions were held on the questions of the annexation of Cape-Breton, the Inter-colonial Railway, and the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States. It has ceased, in fact, to be the rule,—nor in case of any future emergency is it likely to be observed.

There is a reason founded upon courtesy and convenience which I humbly conceive ought to induce Lord Mulgrave to assemble Parliament without delay. Whenever the Government is re-constructed several gentlemen must, under the law, vacate their seats and go back for re-election. To say nothing of the hardship and danger to health to which they must be exposed in canvassing large counties in mid-winter—I humbly ask Your Grace whether it is reasonable that thousands of electors should be exposed to the inclemencies of the season in a North American climate, when the elections might be run at a more favorable period of the year?

I deeply regret, my Lord, the necessity for this appeal. It has been forced upon me. The twenty-eight gentlemen who honor me with their confidence, would instantly withdraw if I were to accept as a just exposition of Responsible Government the answer which, by His Excellency's command, has been given to their memorial. This letter has been submitted to those of them who are within my reach, and, but for the inconvenience of assembling them, would be cheerfully signed by them all.

I have the honor to be, my Lord Duke, Your most obedient servant,
WILLIAM YOUNG.

To the Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle, Colonial Secretary, &c., &c.

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Rev. John C. Morse.

We, the undersigned members of the two Baptist Churches on Digby Neck, of which you are the Pastor, having heard that your character has been assailed by a quarrelsome individual who has forced you to defend yourself against a most dishonest claim, and who, irritated because the Court decided that the said claim was fraudulent, has publicly stated that you took a false oath in the suit instituted against you by the said individual, we therefore appointed a committee to investigate the matter; and that committee reported as follows:

"We find upon examination, that during a recent trial in the Supreme Court held at Digby, the Rev. John C. Morse swore that the amount of a note given by him to James Raymond was thirty-five pounds; and that since the trial John Larry, and other evil-disposed persons sympathizing in iniquity with the said John Larry, have publicly and libellously asserted that the said note was only thirty pounds, and therefore the Rev. John C. Morse has taken a false oath. We have seen the note in question, and find that the sum therein mentioned is thirty-five pounds; and that the whole transaction upon which the said suit was founded is in no way discreditable to our pastor.

JACOB CORNWALL,
EDWARD DENTON,
STEPHEN DENTON,
A. M. GIDNEY."

Although, Rev. and dear Sir, you might appeal to the tribunals of the Country in vindication of your character against the libellous reports, which John Larry and others like him have maliciously circulated to your prejudice, we implore you to leave him and them in the hands of God, to whom vengeance alone belongeth. Were the calumnies referred to confined to the locality where they originated, and where the slanderous parties are known, we should not have thought it necessary even to notice it; but having heard that these wicked slanders have been reiterated in St. John, N. B. and elsewhere, we beg to assure you that our esteem and confidence in your christian integrity remain unshaken; and that we are persuaded all that ungodly men may say to your prejudice, or do to annoy you, will only tend to make you adhere still more closely to those precepts and principles, which in all ages have sustained God's servants when reviled and persecuted by the enemies of truth and righteousness.

George Connel, John R. Wescott,
Wentworth Saunders, Handy C. Wescott,
Jacob W. Cornwall, Elay Denton,
Jacob Denton, Edward Casebours,
William Saunders, Benjamin Frost,
William Johnson, Jos. W. Denton,
William Denton, Allen Cornwall,
Isaac Cornwall, David A. Tidd,
Alfred Johnston, Thomas Trask,
William Titus, Abel Wescott,
Stephen Wescott, Daniel Raymond,
Squiers Eldridge, Ingram B. Gidney,
William Gilliland, Theodore Starrit.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Extracts from the Report of a Mission to Margaret's Bay and Tancook Island.

"Sabbath, May 15th, preached twice at Mason's Point. The brethren here, though they have been destitute of preaching for a long time, have nevertheless sustained their Prayer and Conference meetings. At present they are contemplating the erection of a meeting-house, the want of which is being deeply felt.

"Monday, May 16th, I started for Indian Harbor, about 12 miles distant. The church here consists of something like 57 members. Having spent nearly a week, I proceeded to Black Point, on the west side of the Bay. Here I preached almost every evening during the week. On Lord's-day, besides preaching twice to large congregations, I aided in starting a large Sabbath School, which previously had been allowed to go down.

"On Wednesday, June 8th, an opportunity being afforded, I set out in a whaler for Tancook Island, which we reached early in the evening. Ere I had yet touched the shore, I was saluted by the solemn news that the angel of death, the night before, had visited the Island. On Saturday I met with the brethren and sisters in Conference. God seemed to be in our midst, banishing disunion from among his children, and enabling them to renew their covenant with each other. On the Sabbath I preached three times. At the request of the brethren, the meetings were continued every evening during the week. At length, opportunities having been afforded for that purpose, 24 came forward and, professing faith in Christ, were acknowledged by the church as fit candidates for immersion. Accordingly, Bro. Hurd of Chester having been obtained, 23 of the above, on Sabbath morning, June 26th, followed their Lord by baptism. Besides the above, there are a great many who have publicly professed to have a hope in Christ, and have determined, by the help of God, to live a new life.

"When I came to the Island, the church numbered 34, it now numbers 57. All seem to be

united in the determination, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to live more to the glory of God.

"I have spent in the service of the Board eight weeks: preached 44 sermons, &c., &c. Collected for the Board, £7 5s 4d. The people on Tancook have signed to the amount of £8 15s. 9d., which is to be collected by the 20th October next. Yours, &c., "S. BELL."

To the Home Missionary Board.

GUYSBOROUGH CO.—We are pleased to learn that an interesting state of revival is being experienced at Manchester and Guysborough. The Rev. John Whidden has been with the brethren of that neighborhood two or three times of late. Last Lord's-day he administered the ordinance of baptism to eight converts. The Methodist Society in those places are also receiving accessions to their numbers.

The Rev. Mr. Miller, we hear, is on a visit to the Church at Sydney, C. B.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

SMALL POX.—The Mayor of Halifax has written to the Mayors of St. John, N. B. and Charlottetown, P. E. I., to ascertain the truth of reports as to this disease being in those cities. Their replies show that there have been a few cases, but that it is fast disappearing.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.—The beautiful Italian Villa in Gottingen Street has been purchased by the Directors of this Institution. Mr. Hutton and three of the pupils were presented by Capt. Killam with a free passage to Yarmouth where they have been holding public exhibitions.

St. Paul's Church in this city is undergoing improvement in its interior.

The "Peerless" has again broken the chain by which she was being hauled up on the Marine Railway at Dartmouth, but is still retained on the cradle.

The uniform made by the Messrs. Campbell for Rifle Corps is made of country homespun, with black facings and trimmed with black braid.

Mr. Thomas, of Liverpool Head, has built a mile and three quarters of railroad from his mill to the post road.

The River Hebert Coal is said to have many excellent qualities and will last longer than any other.

Prince Edward Island.

Two persons named Carroll, were lately suffocated by going down into a well at Monaghan.

The half-yearly returns of the Revenue for 1858 shew an increase of £4,000 over the corresponding half year of 1848.

Canada.

CASE OF ALLEGED ABDUCTION.—The Canada papers have been busily engaged of late, detailing and discussing a case of the above character, of unusual interest to the people of Halifax.

It appears from the Montreal Gazette of the 26th that about six weeks since the family of the Hon. J. Leander Starr was plunged in distress. A daughter, highly educated, beautiful, intelligent, most affectionate and dutiful to her parents, had arisen in the morning ere those parents were awake and gone out. When her mother went to her room to bid her good morning, she found, in the place of her daughter, a note saying that she had felt it her duty to God to leave her parents to seek religious peace in conventual life. The blow was most sudden and unexpected, and the hearts of both father and mother were almost crushed by the bereavement. He set forth in quest of her. He applied to the R. C. Bishop for leave to search the Convents; it was granted, readily, courteously. But the search was unavailing. Two or three days passed. Another letter came. The daughter was happily placed, she said, where, forgetting the world, she could devote herself wholly to the services of God. Search for her would be useless. Renewed search was made. The Bishop was requested to examine the priest of the Seminary. Mr. Starr was satisfied that, without the connivance of some of the religious orders in Montreal, the mysterious flight would never have occurred. The examination was promised, but no satisfaction obtained. He returned again and again to the convents. He showed the nuns the portrait of his daughter. They denied all knowledge of any such lady. At last, by means of the police authorities, it was ascertained that her carpet bag had been left at the Seminary on the morning of her flight and forwarded afterwards to the West. Other clues were gradually picked up, and westward Mr. Starr started. Several of his Toronto friends had had interviews with Bishop Charbonnel, entreating him to give information on the subject, to ascertain where Miss Starr had gone. He knew nothing, could ascertain nothing about it, was the reply. Yet on to the West, beyond Toronto, to Toledo; sped the heavy-hearted, mourning father.

Mr. Starr, it appears, discovered his daughter in the following manner:—

He waited upon the superior of a convent of grey nuns at Toledo, and informed her in elegant French that he was a foreign tourist taking the statistics of the convents in this country, and would like to ascertain the date of its foundation, the name of its Superior, the number of its in-