THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Charlatana, who think they are specially adapted to manage the affairs of a Province, though in reality they are not fit to turn the smallest | held the office, that he collected more, wheel in the machine, may endeavor in a cloud of words to give their conceptions of how our Local Legislature can be managed. It is easy work sitting in an office to effect savings of thousands of dollars, but when the public service requires increased expenditure, it would be poor economy to starve it. The want of confidence debate lately closed in the House Assembly, gave the reformers an onportunity to air their grievances. The opposition laid down their platform, but the government met every charge, and the debate showed conclusively, that at every point, the interests of the country were properly guarded by the present executive. After weeks of searching, after numberless motions the opponents of the fact that the whole thing is a matter government were unable to find even the suspicion of a scandal, the slightest taint of corruption in the governments administration. Every point was defended and the result of the debate was that the government was shown to be stronger in the House it is only necessary to call public and country to day than ever it was before.

The independent support of such men as Davidson, Elder, McManus, etc., men of experience, of ability, and of untarnished respectability, will far outweigh the factious opposition of the Gillespies, the Sayre's or the Ritchie's. The people of the Province are too intelligent to be misled by the hollow had to appear and work eight hours and insincere cries of a disappointed a day. The value of a day's work is faction, who have no coherence or computed at thirty cents. Every consistency, who change their policy to suit their exigencies, and who prate about a political economy, the first principles of which they do not understand.

As to the question of Economical Reform, it is a worthy one, and we believe the government will deal exceeding \$2000 another day, and with it intelligently and well. The for every eight hundred dollars fluances of the country are now in a good condition, and the management of the present government is bearing good fruit. In this regard let us quote the words of one of the greatest of British statesmen:-

"As it is the interest of the government that reform should be early, it is the interest of the people that it should be temperate. It is their interest, because a temperate reform is permanent, and because it has a principle of growth. Whenever we improve, it is right to leave room for further improvement. It is right to consider, to look about us, to examine the effect of what we have done. Then we can proceed with confidence because we can proceed with intelligence. Whereas in hot clear work, the whole is generally so crude, so harsh, so indegested, mixed with so much unprudence, and so much injustice, so contrary to the whole course of human nature and human institutions, that the very people who are most eager for it are among the first to grow disgusted at what they have done. Then some part of the abdicated grievance is recalled from its exile in order to become a corrective of the correction. Then the abuse assumes all the credit and pepularity of a reform. The very

experienced men, and thus disorders become incurable, not by the virulence of their own quality, but by the nnapt and violent nature of the remedies. A great part therefore of reform should operate gradually; some benefits will come at a nearer, some at a more remote period. We must no more make haste to be rich by parsimony than by intemperate acquisition."

These are golden words, and wor.h more than volumes of the windy letters of the Lawrences and others who endeavor to catch the public car by impossible schemes of general reform. Let the government proceed in its work of reform with the full consciousness that it has the confidence of the country, and that it will be its own fault if it forfeit that confidence. The heterogenous elements that constitute the opposition have the confidence of nobody, not even of themselves, and so far from being able to take upon themselves the duties of an Executive are far from fit to perform creditably the functions of an Opposition.

An M. P. said by some to be Mr Snowball, went into a departmental office in Ottawa the other day. The deputy head became very rude to him, whereupon Mr. Snowball retired, and returning in a few minutes with a tin whistle, scianaded the ungracious official.

#### TOWN AFFAIRS.

(No. 2.)

The manner in which our streets, sidowalks &c., are kept is simply liegraceful. Last your, on several occasions, we referred to this matter, but we placed the blame on the then commissioner, not knowing the real circumstances of the matter. Later on, we learned that he was one of the best commissioners that ever and expended the mouey more equitably, than any commissioner for some years. We thought the commissioner was merely appointed to do certain specified work, that he had a fixed amount to expend, and that repairs to roa is, sidewalks &c., were made after some system. But we were surprised to learn that there is no system at all, that the com missioner has to assess the amount, collect it, and then expend it as he sees fit. That there is no plan of the streets, no estimates made for the requirements of this service, no idea of the amount to be collected, no fair apportionment of the tax, in of guess work, and founded on no principle whatever. That such a state of affairs should exist in a town of the size and importance of Chatham surprises us, and we think that attention to the matter to have it remedied.

hke the roads in the country, were repaired by statute labor. In that tigation did not alone exonerate year this labor was commuted to money rate, but the principle of as sessing was the same as when people male inhabitant, except clergymen and schoolmasters, over 21 years of age, is assessed 3 days or 90 cents. then for any real or personal estate not exceeding \$400, one day additional, exceeding \$400, and not worth of property an additional day. This does great injustice in the distribution of the tax, as the following scale will show

A	man	withe	ut any	property	Paye	\$0	90
	do	worth	\$400	in do	do	1	20
	do	40	500	de	de	1	50
	de	do	1,200	do	do	1	50
	do	do	1,300	do	do	1	80
	do	do	2,000	do	do	1	80
	do	do	2,100	de	40	2	10
	do	do	2,800	do	de	2	10
	de	do	2,900	de	do	2	40
	de	do	3,600	de	de	2	40
	So	that	a man	worth	\$3,600	War	th

of property only pays twice as much as the man who is only worth \$400; and a man without any property at all pays half as much as one with \$2,000 worth of property. But we need not point out the injustice of reformations, in what men more the tax, it is apparent to any one zealous than considerate call making who looks at the above table, and extends it, allowing an additional day for every\$800 worth of property. A man with an income of \$2,000 a year, if he have no real or personal property can only be assessed 90cts. the same as a poor laboring man.

The result of this inequitable system is, that a sum of from \$700 to \$1,000 only is received for the repair and extension of roads, sidewalks &c., the renewal and repair of sewers &c., a sum entirely inadequate for idea of purity and desinterestedness the service. Then the commissioner no public money is ever expended, and usually each commissioner attends to his own locality, or to the interests of his personal or political friends. The interests of the public who pay the taxes are often ignored, and the office is often sought as a means of giving employment to the commissioner's horses, and a number of men, who from long experience have learned to perfection the man-

ner of "how not to do it." We will deal further with this matter again.

There is no talk of the Breakwater at Escuminac, no word about the tion. telegraph line between here and Point Escuminac, because we had no one at Ottawa, to press these matters on the attention of the Commons. Perhaps Northumberland now sees, the wisdom of "electing J B Snowball!!"

It is a matter of the greatest indifference to the Conservatives, and mission, that could any day make a the hundreds of disgusted "Reform- raid upon a public office, parade the ers" in the county, whether Snow- private papers before the public gaze, ball runs again or not. It is all his to satisfy the importunities of some own business what he does. The outside clique. people will see about the representa-

The County of Westmeath is proclaimed to be under the coercion kept back, witnesses called from all act.

## EXTINGUISHED.

We direct our readers to our special despatches from Fredericton. Some days ago Mr. Willis gave notice that he would ask for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the sale of Crown Timber Lands at different times, and in various places, and that power be granted to said committee to summon, swear and examine witfailed to set forth the "quis furores to set forth any charge at all. When the motion was named, the Surveyor! General took the floor. He said he was not atraid that the light of day should shine upon the management of his office, that he was prepared to meet any specific charge made by any responsible person, but that he was not prepared again to submit to the impertinent enquiries of a committee, who had no specific charge, but were merely on the hunt for some thing. He pointed to the wording of the resolution, and asked the House, if it could sav what he had to meet and turning towards Willis he said he would give that gentleman the privilege of naming the charge for which he was to answer and would then himself call for investigation. But Willis made no charge, he merely grinned and the Surveyor General then turning to the floase, said he claimed its protection—that last winter charges had been made against his department by Mr. Ryan, that he had called him Before 1863 the roads in the town, self for a prompt, impartial and searching investigation, that the said inveshim from the charge, but the gentleman who made the charge denied that he had done so-and gave the house to understand that he only came there to search around, and nose around in ease there might be anything wrong. He said he was not prepared to submit to a similar impertinent ordeal this

Mr Davidson said the Legislature was the highest court in the land, and the same principles should regulate it, when it resolved itself into a judicial tribunal, that regulated the proper courts. In the courts, no man was arraigned without a specific

HonMrLandry took the same ground and pointed to the proceedings of last winter, how Mr Ryan had swallowed his own words before the committee, and that the time of the House had Tory." been wasted to no purpose. Other hon gentlemen, among them the Attorney General, and Mr. Elder concurred with Hon. Mr Adams, and on the resolution being put, it was defeated by twenty from the operation of the Act. three votes, to thirteen.

We look upon the loss of the Willia motion, as a gain to the legislature. It is a triumph for the dignity and traditions of British Colonial Government and the admission that the same principles which are recognized in a court of justice, are not ignored in the legislature, a body first and superior to any court in the land. In a court of law no man is called to plead, unless a specified charge has been made against him, and we are unable to discover why the same principle should public. not obtain in our legislature. In the case before us, one hon member asks for a committee to sit in judgment week. Nothing has been done, or upon the conduct of the head of a De- will be done for Northumberland this partment, but when asked to name session, because our representative the charge which he wishes to inves | basely deserted us. tigate, he says he has none, he only ants to enquire and see if there may not be something wrong; that he does politics falls into disrepute and is having carte blanche to expend what not know, and cannot know what considered as a vision of hot and in- the collects, at his own descretion, the charge is till he has seen a lot of there are streets in the town on which [public papers, and heard an army of witnesses swear. Is it any wonder that the Surveyor General indignan tly refused to submit to such a preposterous enquiry, and that the House with a firm voice cried down the introduction of such a pernicious principle? The first axiom in judicial philosophy is that every man is presumed to be innocent, till he is proven guilty, but the monsfrous innovation, of which Mr. Willis would become the sponsor, assumes every man guilty till he is proven innocent: for says Willis, we have no charge against the Crown Land Department, yet we assume the head of that De partment to be guilty,- let him prove himself innocent by the investiga

It was high time the Legislature closed its doors against impertment intrusion upon official grounds; for else it would at no distant day find out the only solution to the oft recurring nuisance would be the appointment of a permanent com-

Last winter we had proof of this demoralizing spectsole, of time and money wasted, the public business over the Province, -to prove nothing

AN IMPERTINENT INNOVATION but what might be found in the public accounts. In the present case, the Honse had only to say if it would have the same expensive, and impertipent folly perpetrated over again. It said no. Its decision was good.

> HOW IT FARES WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

In 1878 the confest in Carleton County was a pretty strong one. though it was less a strife of quesnesses, to call for papers, and deal tions than a struggle between indiviwith all matters touching the inquiry duals. Mr Appleby was the at lesue: but unfortunately the motion Grit or Government candidate, and Mr Goo. Connell stood upon in-O cives?" and more than this failed dependent ground. He told the people he was neither Grit nor Tory, neither a protectionist nor a free trader, but that he would do what he thought was best in the interests of his county. Carleton then was strongly Liberal, because the people had been told if the Government were put out the country would be ruined. Had Mr Connell therefore confessed himself a Conservative, he would most assuredly have been defeated. Hundreds of these who voted for him said, 'If you are a Conservative we will not vote for you." He was personally wastly superior to his opponent and being "independent," was elected. But the wheel has turned round, Mr George Connell is dead, and the constituency is open. The new government has been in power three years, and its policy is good. Hence Carleton that in 1878 was Grit, in 1881 s Conservative strong. Mr Leighton, M. P. P. at Fredera

icton, didn't think it was, and he is a staunch kind of a man, does a large business in cedar poles and is 'strong Liberal" he says, so far he "understands the question." he went up to "Woodstock to see." The next day he came back and thought he would'nt run. So that if find it to their advantage to send to me for primitive and green in many ways, he has some little shrewdness. He found Dr Connell there, and on enquiry learnt that he, Leighton, " had better go back to Fredericton. The latest news from Carleton is that Dr Connell who is a pronounced and zealous Conservative will be elected by acclamation in a county that in 1878 was strongly Grit. Sie volvere parcas.

Mr Mackenzie was denouncing the Governments policy in the Commons one night lately, respecting the Pembina Branch and he said "The proceedings are of a true Tory charac-

Sir John's response was "Satisfac-

The amendment to the Canada Temperance Act has passed the Senate. The senendment excludes ales, porter, lager and light wines success of this amendment is not assured in the Commons.

Nally is the name of one of the persons arrested under the Coercion act. When he reached Dublin the masses cheered him, and as the police bore him away he cried out "For every man arrested, let one be laid pros-

We give our readers today a sup- Essence of Lemon plement containing the able speech of the Attorney General on the Blair-Lawrence resolution. We need but commend it to the perusal of the

The House of Commons closes this

In the House of Commons the other night, Mr Finnigan who was speaking described the repeated interruptions as "beastly bellowing."

In another issue, we will give as much as we can of the powerful, clear and convincing speech of the Provincial Secretary on the badget.

Sir Charles and Lady Tupper have left for England. They will spend LOWER WATER ST., CHATHAM. the summer in the South of France.

Some of the Land League members arrested, are American citizens. and demand American protection.

The British are parleying with the Boers, and the truce ends Monday. Then it will be pax or bellum.

The Surveyor General comes home Sunday morning, and will remain two or three days.

The Queen of Denmark is dead.

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