

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, N. B., MARCH 8, 1894.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell and Northumberland.

Some of the newspapers, in dealing with Hon. Peter Mitchell's recent letter to Mr. A. F. Gault on the subject of his personal grievances against Sir John A. Macdonald, seem to assume that there is a feeling in Northumberland county in favor of Mr. Mitchell being its next representative in the House of Commons.

Mr. Mitchell recently visited this County and, we believe, claims to have discovered the feeling referred to. In going from place to place in the Dominion in connection with the letter against Sir John A. Macdonald, through which he has secured a great deal of notoriety, he, apparently, lays considerable stress in the interviews with which he favors the press,—upon his alleged popularity as a coming candidate for Northumberland.

It is true that Mr. Mitchell has been encouraged to entertain that belief, such encouragement could not have been given to him seriously in this County, save by, perhaps, half a dozen persons, and if anybody has given it as a joke it seems little short of cruelty to a gentleman who, in his time, did good service for the country and County, but is now generally recognized as one who has ceased to wield, or be in a position to exercise any effective influence in the active politics of the country.

We do not, for a moment, desire to convey the impression that Mr. Mitchell has not more than half a dozen supporters in the County, but that those who know it best would be foremost in counselling him not to try his waning political fortunes in it again.

Northumberland had sufficient experience in being of no account at Ottawa, in the last nine years of Mr. Mitchell's representation, largely through his subordinating its interests to what now appears to have been his desire to be re-elected upon the late Sir John A. Macdonald. His sinister influence had the same effect between 1878 and 1882, when, though not in Parliament, he brought all his former experience in the House of Commons and the Government to bear in thwarting the efforts for the County's good of the gentleman who represented it during that period.

It is such considerations as these that lead our people to have no desire for Mr. Mitchell as a candidate for Ottawa. When another election is brought on those who are opposed to Mr. Adams will, doubtless, be very sorry should Mr. Mitchell again insist upon entering the contest, for in that event, Mr. Adams' re-election would be a foregone conclusion.

Mr. Adams' friends are, therefore, more likely than anyone else to encourage Mr. Mitchell and, after all, it is those of them who think it no harm to "pull the leg" of our former representative in this way, and a half dozen others who bitterly oppose, but thus unwittingly play into Mr. Adams' hands, who are responsible for Mr. Mitchell's apparent belief that he has a chance to again represent Northumberland in the House of Commons.

Liverpool Timber News says—The other day we learned, second-hand, from a leading officer in the London Fire Brigade, that among the least combustible establishments in London would be the great paper warehouses if they consisted entirely of stacks of paper.

male. This, of itself, should be a potent factor in leading our younger men to the conclusion that Mr. Mitchell ought not again to be a candidate for Northumberland, for while it displays an egotism on his part which, being manifested generally in his career, has placed him in the position before the country which he now occupies, shows that notwithstanding his former pledges he is determined to intrude himself upon the County as a candidate whenever there is a Dominion election, and not to leave the honor of representing it to be competed for on fair and even terms by those who are as well equipped for the position as he was when he entered public life, and whose claims upon the constituency are now much better than his.

Northumberland, while it has a kindly feeling towards Mr. Mitchell, personally, has suffered too much in loss of prestige and the neglect of its interests through his idiosyncrasies as a representative to again send him to Ottawa. Our people's experience in recent years must surely have taught them that they require a representative there who will not devote himself to the manifestation of personal peculiarities, which make him interesting, perhaps, but strip him of influence. The man who represents them should be one who realises that in politics, as in other sciences, patience, study, the faculty of testing all available paths and means by which to obtain the object sought, are necessary; and his functions are best and most intelligently discharged when in laboring for his people he demonstrates his capacity for divesting himself of his own personality and employing the superior acumen which he should possess in living, thinking, speaking, acting and (if necessary) scheming to promote the interests of his country. Much can, of course, be said by those who choose to take strong grounds on the side of one or the other of the two great parties, but the man who can find any principle at stake in either of them, for the sake of which he is willing to forego the promotion of the material interests of the county he represents, is fit only for the use that is generally made of him, viz.—to be rung in the ladder by which clear-headed men climb to influence and position, and leave him of little service for any other purpose than to be climbed over.

By a coincidence quite remarkable, and in which the death of a Lieutenant governor who never met the Legislature, as such, is included, the judges who were committed to the last session of the Assembly to make an important state enquiry, will open the Legislature as lieutenant governor and in his "speech from the throne" refer to the work done by him in his capacity as a commissioner of the government of which he is now the head. It may be assumed that whatever he may say on the subject will be received by the people of the province with the same interest as the same established reputation for integrity and ability. At all events, the friends of the school law of New Brunswick cannot but have confidence in one who, next to Judge King, now of the Supreme Court of Canada, was instrumental in giving that law to the province, faulty as it is in principle.

Mr. Gladstone's Final Speech on the Parish Councils Bill. Mr. Gladstone addressed the House of Commons the other day speaking with marvelous energy and vigor. During the course of his speech he said the government felt that the operation of sending and re-sending bills from one House to another had continued long enough. (Loud and prolonged cheering and much laughter.) When Mr. Gladstone was again able to resume speaking he said: "To continue the process would be a loss of dignity to both Houses and the government has decided to stop the operation and take a decided course." The government had the choice of rejecting the House of Lords' amendments and abandoning the hope of passing the bill, or to accept them under protest with the hope of some reversing them. The government adopted the second course. (Cheers.) Mr. Gladstone then reviewed the action of the House of Lords in the past and said: "We have now reached the acute stage. It appears that the House of Lords desires to annihilate the whole work of the House of Commons. In regard to the present bill the government desires to save something from the wreck and therefore accept the amendments, but with the declaration that the differences between the Houses are not of a temporary or casual nature. This state of things, I am compelled to say, cannot continue. The issues raised between the assembly elected by the voice of the people and the assembly occupied by many men of virtue and talents are of considerable variety. When once raised they must go into the issue. No doubt there is a higher authority than the House of Commons, namely, the authority of the nation—(loud cheers)—which must in the last resort decide. (Renewed cheers, and loud opposition cries of "at once.") When the judgment is to be invited is a question which the Government alone can decide. We acquiesce in the loss of an important bill the other day, owing to an objectionable amendment and because we thought that the clause vitiated all the work expended on the bill here. However, an amendment, no matter how objectionable, is limited to a particular subject matter and does not interfere with the great extension of the principle of local government by the bill itself. The amendment is a gross mischief which will have to be removed at the earliest opportunity, but at the same time the mischief is limited to a certain portion of the objects and purposes of the bill, while it leaves the rest of the bill to work freely and undisturbed. We therefore have arrived at the conclusion that it would not be well to wreck the whole of the work for the session, for, with the exception of this bill, nearly the whole of the session has been wrecked. There are many members, and I sympathize with them in many respects, who have been ready to sacrifice the bill rather than allow the amendments to take their place in the statute book, but I must observe that to sacrifice the bill would be to forego part of a very serious question which I have no serious wish to grow more and more serious with the lapse of time and which during the present session has reached a stage of peculiar acuteness and magnitude. We have therefore to look to the acceptance of those amendments, now as closing this controversy, but as handing it on, which, according to our judgment, it will be the duty of Parliament to continue until it has arrived at a satisfactory settlement. But if we were to attempt to destroy the whole work of the session by consigning this bill to the oblivion to which the Irish Government bill (loud opposition "Ohs") and the Employers' Liability bill have been consigned."

Mr. Gladstone interrupted himself and referring to the opposition "Ohs" said, "I do not think this is a matter to be treated with levity." After comparing the two houses Mr. Gladstone continued: "I do not like to say that the situation is intolerable, because it may seem a hard and dictatorial word, but I think some way or other a solution must be found for this tremendous controversy and inconsistent conflict on matters of high principle and profound importance. Judgment on this, the Ministry, however, would have no difficulty in pronouncing frankly and fully and finally on the side of the Commons." At the conclusion of his speech Mr.

Glidstone asked the House to accept the House of Lords' amendments to the bill. After speeches by Balfour, Churchill and Samuel Streeby the Radicals called for a division on the question of the amendments, with the following result: For agreeing, 273; against, 37; majority for it, 236. The other amendments were then agreed to without a division and the House adjourned.

Referring to the passage of the bill and the strained relations between the Houses of Lords and Commons the New York Herald says "Mr. Gladstone has gained a victory, not a great one, it is true, but still a victory over the House of Lords in inducing it to accept the Parish Councils bill with only slight alterations. When this measure, which is extremely popular, was first introduced into the House of Commons there were rumors afloat that the Upper Chamber would throw it out neck and crop. Its principle, it was claimed, struck at the hereditary privileges of the peers, and that would never do in a constitutional monarchy like England. At any rate the bill was passed in the Commons and sent to the Lords. The peers mutilated the bill in many vital particulars and on February 13 it was returned to the House of Commons after protest by the Earl of Wemyss that the poor law classes had been allowed to pass practically without amendment. Then began an attack upon the hereditary legislative body all over England, engineered primarily by the Radicals. The day after, at Portsmouth, Sir William Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a remarkable speech at a political meeting, in which he said—

"There is no man in my mind more deplorable in all this business than the attitude which has been taken upon the floor of Lords by the bench of Bishops. Property, property! property! is the chant of the Lords temporal. Amen! the cry of the Lords spiritual. Property, property, property! Privilege, privilege, privilege! Exclusion, exclusion, exclusion! is the motto and the evensong of the Lords spiritual. It was always so. I can remember the days of Archbishop Taill—so long ago—as of Wilberforce—when the character of an English Bishop was not inconsistent with liberal sympathies. The distrust of the rural population, this fear that Lord Salisbury describes, that they are, or might be, their enemies, against whom they must ever be on their guard; this eagerness for sectarian ascendancy; this jealousy of ecclesiastical privilege, has characterized the conduct of our Bishops all through this bill. They have throughout been among the most militant and aggressive antagonists of popular rights. (Tears them out.) Send General Booth to them! and laughter.) Look at the way they had treated Lord Salisbury's bill. Well, London will take care of itself, and I venture to say that the electors of London will have something to say to the Lords at the next election. "You may depend upon this that we will deal with these amendments faithfully. Lord Salisbury may have the advantage of battle. It is not we who have challenged this conflict. We take the nation to witness it has been forced upon us—(Hear, hear!) and depend upon it we will not shrink. We have to face, probably, the rashest and most reckless leader that has ever been at the head of the Tory party. So extreme have been the counsels of Lord Salisbury that even his own followers have shrunk from his violence. He has in his attempt to distance the great body of the rural laborers, the abolition of compounding; he failed in his desire to force the parish councils into the public houses; even Lord Derby and Lord Cranbrook, sitting by his side, took up their parable against him, therefore, we know what we have to deal with. Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows. He presents himself as amicus curiæ. What a court! What a friend! Birds of a feather flock together. Lord Salisbury has done his utmost to distance the great body of the rural laborers, the abolition of compounding; he failed in his desire to force the parish councils into the public houses; even Lord Derby and Lord Cranbrook, sitting by his side, took up their parable against him, therefore, we know what we have to deal with. Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows. He presents himself as amicus curiæ. What a court! What a friend! Birds of a feather flock together. 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