

COMMUNICATIONS.

[FOR THE CARLETON SENTINEL.]

MR. EDITOR.—Having had the pleasure of attending a Tea-Meeting holden by the Cadets of Temperance, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute on Friday evening last, I would humbly beg through your useful Journal, to give publicity to a few remarks which were suggested to my mind by the occurrences of the evening; while seated in that spacious apartment, so well calculated to accommodate Ladies and Gentlemen on such occasions, and after having partaken of the good things, which decorated the tables, of which there appeared to be a superabundance, I began to reflect on the circumstances that had brought so many persons together. I then beheld the noble hearted Cadets clothed in the regalia of their Order, I asked myself is this a Temperance Organization? the answer reverberated to my already excited imagination—It is. I then began to look around and see who were supporting those little fellows, by giving their attendance; my mind immediately reverted to the Sisters of the Union, or rather the Daughters of Temperance, and to my astonishment I beheld a comparatively small number present. My mind at once returned to the period when the members composing Victoria Union, D. of T. with all the hardihood of the sterner sex, perambulated our streets, seeking signatures to a petition for the suppression of Tavern Licences. I paused, and scarcely knew what conclusion to come at, but being of a lenient disposition, I was about to excuse them for their absence, on account of the intensely cold weather, that evening; when I was informed by a person present, that their absence was caused from a very different reason, of which I shall not at present inform you. It then occurred to me that there were other Temperance Organizations in this village, viz., the Woodstock and Melancthon Divisions of the Sons of Temperance. I know but little of these organizations, but was led to suppose there must be a great number of persons composing those Divisions, if I may judge from the noise they have been making for the last two or three years. Really Mr Editor, I was led to suppose some eighteen months ago, that our little Village would have been completely revolutionized ere this; but I must say in reference to this "How has the gold changed and the most fine gold become dim?" But to my thoughts again, I glanced my eyes around once more, and to my utter astonishment the principal part of the persons composing those Divisions were not to be seen. I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that my heart sickened at the thought, and I at once came to the conclusion that these Institutions (organized in our village at least) were mere nominal things, more for public parade than for the cause they pretend to espouse. It was also apparent that some of the parents of those little Temperance Champions were quite indifferent to the course their sons were pursuing, as many of them were not present on the occasion. But, Mr. Editor, I do not intend commenting on the actions of parents, I will leave them to pursue the course they consider best calculated to stimulate the young and rising generation forward in the paths of piety and virtue.

I would say to the Cadets, push onward in your noble cause,—be not dismayed, but adhere strictly to the principles by which you profess to be governed as Cadets of Temperance, ever keeping in view the end for which you were created, viz., that of loving and serving your Maker, and in all your endeavours, remember that his Omniscient eye beholdeth the evil and the good.

AMICUS.

Woodstock, February 3rd, 1851.

[FOR THE CARLETON SENTINEL.]

MR. EDITOR.—There is a petition in course of signature in this County praying the Legislature to pass an Act granting Annual Elections for members to serve in the General Assembly of this Province, a Registry of Votes and Vote by Ballot, which is now being numerously signed.

This sir, is thought will be the only means, or course to pursue, to prevent the wholesale bribery and corruption now carried on at Elections in this Province. Every one by this time must be aware that a great number of Votes are almost openly purchased for money, but more generally by promises and threats of coercion, if refused. People who are indebted to different parties, are given to understand that if they expect lenity, they must use their exertions to upset certain parties at the Election; or some place of profit is offered to them as a reward for their interest. Now sir, I can see but little difference how a Party filches your vote from you, as long as it is obtained in an improper manner, against your better and unbiassed judgement. Two crimes are committed by bribery, one is, you are robbed of your Franchise and good judgement in the selection, and you deprive the Constituency of your aid and assistance in electing good and true men to serve and represent them. And what, Mr. Editor, are we to think of the character of that Candidate who will so far forget his standing in society as a Gentleman and an honest man that will so far degrade himself to that low and disreputable character as to sanction bribery and corruption to obtain a seat in the House of Assembly? What must the opinion of every honest person be of such a man? Can they lay their hands to their hearts and say they have every confidence in such men? No, sir, the very men who vote for them, in their hearts must despise them, must look on them with utter contempt, as degraded in their estimation. And on the other hand, what must the candidate think of the constituency that will be bribed and corrupted to give him a seat in the Legislature,—that will sell themselves to the highest bidder? He must, and will despise them, and if corrupt enough to buy them, most assuredly he will sell them and the interest of the country.

This evil, Mr. Editor, is increasing, and what can be done to lessen it? If we have annual elections, the Candidates cannot afford to bribe every year. If they vote by ballot and should bribe, they will have no security that the vote will be given them, as the vote is given in secret; and lastly, if there is a registry of voters, none but Freeholders can vote, and no Scrutinies will be required. This, sir, and many other reasons, I think, should induce the Legislature to pass an Act, agreeable with the prayer of the petition, and in doing so would confer a great benefit on the Province, and meet the wishes of a large majority of the Constituency.

Yours, &c.,

JUSTICE.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

[From the Royal Gazette Extra, February 6.]

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at two o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came in the usual state to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, who being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH:

Mr President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I have much pleasure in again meeting the assembled Legislature of New Brunswick.

It is my duty to announce to you two events which interest us as Loyal Subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty, —the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, and the birth of another Prince.

In the course of the last Season, we have been again blessed by Providence with abundant crops. Our Commerce is improving, and the condition of our Revenue marks a certain progress in the prosperity of the Colony. On all these points I sincerely congratulate you, and I only hope that our Export Trade may be conducted with such caution as to prevent those sudden revulsions to which we have occasionally been subject.

A conviction that we are advancing ought to stimulate our People to increased efforts, whilst it should encourage those who govern them to do all that a Legislature can to aid the development of our resources.

Among the most powerful means for affording such aid are improved facilities for communication. I know that this topic need scarcely be urged on your attention. You are fully alive to its importance, and you will, I am sure receive favourably a measure which will probably be laid before you for giving effect to an undertaking of this character. The task is not in all respects, easy. I am one of those who believe, that great works like Rail Roads are neither best constructed nor best managed in their details by the hands of a Government itself. The distribution of the patronage connected with them would always be difficult and generally invidious. I shall most readily concur with you in any measures which may encourage the application of Capital to such schemes. Whilst I rejoice to see the enterprise of the County of Charlotte likely to be rewarded by the progress of the St. Andrews Railway, it will give me still greater pleasure to know that the fertile tracts of Sussex Vale and Westmorland, and the thriving City of St. John, are by similar measures linked to Halifax on the one side, and to the great community on our Western border on the other. You may feel confident that Her Majesty's Government and the British People will hail such a step in our progress with unmixed pleasure and satisfaction.

It adds to the value of this great undertaking that it would probably lead to further action in connecting the City of Quebec with the Capital of Nova Scotia, by the contemplated Great Trunk Railway,—a measure which I consider of the greatest importance, as linking together in one common interest the valuable appendages of the British Crown on this Continent.

A Parliamentary Survey, with reference to a Line of Railway between the Valleys of the Saint John and Saint Croix, to ascertain the practicability of the route, was ordered by the Government last Autumn, in order to afford you the best possible information on the subject, and a competent Engineer was employed for the purpose. His Reports will be laid before you, and I believe them to be as full as the lateness of the season at which they were undertaken would permit.

The recent Acts for the encouragement of Agriculture, have been found beneficial in their operation in various parts of the Province. I again recommend this most prominent subject of our Industry to your continued care and attention.

Some further valuable information has been furnished me respecting our Fisheries, by the Commissioner appointed for the purpose, whose Report will be laid before you. It will be found useful in your deliberations on this very important branch of our resources.

In pursuance of the wishes expressed in previous Sessions of the Legislature, I have caused some works to be executed, on the River Saint John. The object of improving our communications with Canada is one of very great importance to both Provinces, and I shall be prepared to follow up what has been already done, by exertions of the same kind.

Her Most Gracious Majesty has left to its operation the Act for the regulation of the Provincial Posts. It is proposed that the transfer of the Accounts to the Provincial Government should take place on the sixth of July next.—Certain amendments, however, in the details of the Law, which I doubt not, you will carefully consider, will be pointed out to you.

The pressure of business during the last Session prevented the final settlement of our system of Common

Schools. No subject can be of greater moment to the Country. It is the instruction of the population which renders a free Government the best security for order and obedience to the Laws, and on such order and obedience all material prosperity and its value must ultimately rest.

The present Law will shortly expire, and a measure will be introduced by which the people will be brought to act more immediately in the cause of Education.

In pursuance of an authority from the Colonial Secretary, and a wish expressed by His Excellency the Governor General, I have this Autumn conferred with the latter on the long pending subject of our disputed Boundary with Canada. A Member of my Executive Council met me at Toronto and assisted in these conferences. Our object, and that of Her Majesty's Government was so far attained, that in order to meet the objections raised by Canada, the matter is now placed in the hands of competent Arbitrators in England, who will shortly make a final Report to Her Majesty's Secretary of State. One Arbitrator was selected by the Executive of each Province, and the third is a Gentleman whose judicial decisions on great questions of International Law must command respect throughout the world, as Judge of the Admiralty Court of England.

The correspondence relating to this matter will be laid before you.

The question regarding the present mode of granting Supplies will no doubt occupy your attention. So long as the existing system continues, the Government cannot be held responsible for the first condition of all efficient action, that is to say—the correspondence of expenditure with income. It is peculiarly for your consideration, whether such a change should not be made as may cause this responsibility to fall in a manner more strictly in accordance with the usage of the Imperial Parliament.

Such a change would involve the creation of local bodies of some kind, organized in such a manner as to give, mainly at least, to persons elected by the people themselves the distribution and control of Funds applicable to local purposes. The indirect results of such corporate action are quite as valuable as their immediate and direct consequences.

It seems probable that some alterations might be advantageously made in the procedure of the Courts of Law and Equity, which would render Justice easier of access and less expensive to the suitor. At the same time, the caution required in dealing with a subject which affects as this does, the rights of the people at large, makes it expedient that all such changes should be most carefully weighed.—A proposition will be submitted to you for referring this most important matter to a Commission, who may consider the details and report fully thereon.

The Acts for enabling the price of Lands purchased for actual settlement, and the money due on Crown Bonds, to be discharged by labour, are working well, and are leading to increased settlement of the Country and increased security on the part of occupiers.

The Mineral discoveries in the Province seem to hold out prospects of a greater outlay of Capital in this branch of industry. It would be satisfactory to me if any measure could be devised which will place beyond a doubt the extent of the Mineral rights of the Crown, with reference to the interest of owners of the soil, so far especially as relates to all future Grants and Leases.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I shall direct the Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure to be laid before you at an early day.

You will be pleased to see that the state of our Finances continues to improve. All demands upon the Treasury have been promptly met. The seventh Instalment of the Loan negotiated in 1844, (now reduced to one half of the original amount borrowed) was paid the day on which it was due, and the remaining seven Annual Instalments are provided for without trenching upon the General Revenue of the Province, by the imposition of one per cent. on Imports, which expires simultaneously with the Loan Act.

You may possibly see reason to doubt how far a Tariff of Duties on Imports professedly fluctuating from year to year is calculated to afford fixed conditions for the exertions of our own industry, or is likely to impart confidence to our Merchants and their correspondents.

I trust that in all respects you will find the Public Monies have not been expended except in conformity with the wishes of the Representatives of the People.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I am desirous of calling your attention to a Communication from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies of a most important character, which will be placed in your hands.

I allude to a Despatch in answer to an Address of the House of Assembly presented to the Queen in the last Session with reference to the constitution of the Legislative Council in this Province.

You will find in the language of Her Majesty's advisers in this Despatch strong evidence of a disposition to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Subjects on such Constitutional questions.

I doubt not that any steps taken by you in this matter will bear the stamp of calm deliberation, and will be characterized by an adherence to the true spirit of the British Constitution. This spirit is adverse to all hasty and ill-considered change, whilst it is capable of modifying the letter of constitutional forms, so as to meet the sober wishes of the People, and thus adapt our Institutions to the wants of society, without unnecessarily invading existing rights.

These are all weighty matters, which I place with confidence in your hands, and thus leave you to your deliberations.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT.—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to appoint, provisionally, CHARLES CONNELL, Esquire, a Member of the Legislative Council of this Province.

By His Excellency's Command.

J. R. PARTELOW,

Secretary's Office, 5th February, 1851.