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Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, and General Intelligence.

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"Our Queen and Constitution."

[By James S. Segee.

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The Carleton Sentinel

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PROSPECTUS.

A Weekly Paper Entitled

"THE REFORMER,"

will immediately be published in

WOODSTOCK.

It will be chiefly devoted to our AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, and COMMERCIAL interests. To some extent it is intended also that "THE REFORMER" shall be a

LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL.

It will from time to time contain notices of the first literary productions of the age, and of improvements and discoveries in

SCIENCE and ART.

Special attention will be given in this paper to all topics and questions more immediately affecting this County. During the sitting of the Legislature, "THE REFORMER" will contain abstracts of the debates in both Houses.

"THE REFORMER" will not be the advocate of any (if such there be) existing Provincial political party. It will treat political questions without any partisan spirit.

The necessity of some radical change in the Law relating the election of Representatives in General Assembly, will be strongly urged in "THE REFORMER." The bribery, corruption, and tyranny which have prevailed at recent elections are disgraceful to the Country. The adoption of the system of voting by ballot may in some degree obviate these evils. The extension of the Electoral Franchise is justly called for by large numbers of persons not inferior in intelligence and respectability to those now entitled to vote at the election of Representatives in the General Assembly. In a Country where land is comparatively cheap, the landholder does not necessarily possess a greater stake or is more interested in the prosperity of the Country than the possessor of any considerable amount of personal property. The right of rate payers on personal property, with certain restrictions, to enjoy the privilege now confined to land-holders, will be maintained in "THE REFORMER."

If our Country is rapidly and securely to advance, it must be by an improved system of Agriculture; by a thorough reformation in the Common School system; by placing our commercial relations with foreign countries on a proper footing, and by inculcating habits of reliance on ourselves and resources. By such means will "THE REFORMER" endeavor to lead new-Brunswick to improve their condition, and make for themselves a Country of which they need not be ashamed.

Woodstock, March 12, 1853.

NOW IS YOUR TIME

—TO BUY—

GOODS CHEAP.

THE Subscriber will continue to sell the remainder of his Stock of GOODS at cost until further notice.

Persons would do well to call before purchasing elsewhere as the price and quality must please.

April 9.

GEO. S. WINTER.

SPEECH

Of the Hon. CHARLES CONNELL to the Freeholders of Carleton on Nomination Day, Thursday, the 14th April, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,

I feel an unusual degree of embarrassment in rising to address you on this occasion. I remember when I last addressed you from this place, there stood at my side a young man, then in the prime of life, with every prospect of a successful career of usefulness before him, who has within the last few weeks been carried to his grave. I shall always recollect with pleasurable feelings, the services of the late Mr. Beardsley, when we were acting together in the Legislature, as your servants for your benefit. I cannot help feeling deeply on this subject.

I have been nominated before you by an old and a tried friend, and I am much gratified to find he has come forward voluntarily for the purpose. When I accepted a seat in the Legislative Council, I believed I was fulfilling the wishes of my friends and constituents, and while holding that situation I have acted consistently with my former conduct in the lower House.

I have been abused and held up to public censure by many of the newspapers in the Province, for accepting the higher seat, but I was not affected or disturbed by the abuse so lavishly heaped upon me, because I felt satisfied that the Electors of this County were at my side. My opponents were not content with finding fault at my public acts, but stooped to assail my private character—a course which everyright-thinking man must disapprove.

When the Municipal Law was accepted in this County, I came up from Fredericton at the request of numerous friends of the measure to assist in procuring its adoption, and I feel warranted in saying that the working of the system, imperfect as it may be, has convinced all its supporters that it has a tendency to elevate the people, and is a great means of encouraging Education. It gives equal justice and freedom to all. You assess and collect your own moneys—you superintend its disbursement, and you have a direct control over your rulers. Formerly these privileges were denied or withheld, and I was among those who felt aggrieved. Now the change having been brought about I cannot believe the people of this County desire to go back to the old practice.

It will be in the recollection of many that I stood pledged to the Electors to vacate my seat in the Council, when properly requested to do so. That request has been made, and I am here now in obedience to it. I was indebted to you for the position I held, and I feel you have the right to direct and regulate my public conduct. The requisition that brought me here has nearly 600 names appended to it, and it is such an one as no man, in the face of his pledge, could disregard.

I deny most emphatically that there has been any collusion on my part in getting up this Requisition. I had no hand or part in it. It is true that in view of such an occurrence as this one, my advice and opinion has been asked, by letter from Woodstock, but I have always replied that the Electors must be suffered to take their own course, without any interference on my part, and I denied myself the opportunity of paying the last respect to your late member, from a fear that motives would be ascribed to me I never entertained.

There can be no inducement for me to take a seat in the Assembly beyond a wish to render myself useful to this, my native County. It is no small matter to go through the excitement of so many elections, as there may be a dissolution next summer. At any rate there must be a new House in a year or a little more than a year. My business affairs require me to be absent from my family during a great part of the summer, and my attendance at Head Quarters in a Legislative capacity takes up my time in winter, and when I say, with all the rest of mankind, that my family are near and dear to me, it can be no matter of surprise to any of you when I add that this compliance with your wishes involves a sacrifice of personal comfort and private interest. But I have been willing, and am yet willing to serve you, so long as my services seem necessary and no longer, and be assured that I can as readily retire to private life at your request, as I have resigned my seat in the Council.

I am no office-seeker. I expect to derive no advantage from my political standing, beyond that of participating in common with you all in those measures of reform and improvement which seem at the present time to be so much required.

When this Requisition was presented to me in Fredericton, I wrote the answer without consultation with any one, and although my enemies have said I dared not resign and take the chance of an Election, yet my resignation has been sent in, and its acceptance by the Governor is now in my hands.

I have good grounds for stating that my enemies in this village have had the telegraph actively employed in sending for and receiving from one of the members of government information respecting my movements. But I can disregard any interference on the part of the Government, or any one of its members. You have all heard or read of the matter of the book leaves being taken out and replaced, and that the transaction had been satisfactorily explained. I do not believe everything relating to it was exposed. There is dirty work some where, and this very government official who takes such an interest in my movements, knows well if I get a seat in the Assembly, that book affair will be more thoroughly sifted. It may be that he is afraid of its being again brought up that he expresses so much anxiety for my defeat.

It has been industriously reported throughout the County that I am not on terms with the head of the Government. Such is not the fact. In all my intercourse with the Governor I have ever been treated in a courteous and gentlemanly manner, and I have always found him ready and willing to do everything to expedite the business before him that his duty required. These and various other stories are being sent abroad in this County by a set of boys, who with a bottle of rum in their pockets, are going about seeking to convince the Freeholders of their truth.

I have made no personal exertions to secure support, neither do I intend to ask a man for his vote. I wish the Election to be conducted in such a way as to enable the Freeholders to decide for themselves without any bias either way.

Improper motives and a desire to obtain notoriety has been freely ascribed to me for the course I pursued with regard to the College and Government House. I here disavow them, and I will tell you, my constituents, that I sought for the information for the public generally, believing and hoping that when it is seen how much those establishments have cost and do annually cost, the people throughout the entire

Province would take into their serious consideration, the propriety of continuing them. The returns may not be made out this year, but they are sure to come, and in this good work I had an able assistant in a member from Westmorland—a Mr. Smith—who in the lower House has taken up the matter in good earnest.

In a conversation with a gentleman connected with the College, I enquired how many students there were at it. He told me ten and a half, that is, nine young men and three boys. These last he estimated at one and a half.—The revenues of this College are about £2,700 annually, and all to educate ten boys and a half. Look at the other Institutions for learning! At the Baptist Seminary there are about sixty scholars,—at the Wesleyan about one hundred,—and compare the allowances to those with what is awarded to King's College, and you will, I think, agree with me and every other friend of Education, that a fairer division of our own money should be made, and that all our children should have an equal chance to get an education. An influential and an important man in a former Government has been heard to declare that it is not prudent to educate a people, 'twould make them troublesome. Such doctrine would scarcely find supporters in this County, and ought not to be supported anywhere.

An Academy has been established in St. Stephen by some gentlemen, which now boasts of eighty scholars. They get an allowance of £100 from the Province. I should like to see such an other here. I will give £250 towards the building, and £25 a year for ten years towards its support.

I have told you I was a native of this County. Many of you know my parents. I am the son of a mechanic, and therefore have no claim upon aristocratic support. It is not by such that I shall be elected. But I am told I shall be opposed by what is designated the aristocratic crew. The cause of this hostility may be ascribed to my support of Municipal Institutions. Persons can no longer keep the County affairs in the dark. Neither can Justices withhold and refuse to pay the moneys they collect as rates from the poor back settlers. When I, as a Magistrate, attempted any improvement, I was always opposed on the Bench. It seemed to be considered that the people were not fit to take charge of their own affairs, but I think it has now been conclusively shown they are not so lamentably ignorant as some would yet faintly believe they are. The elective principle for all officers is a good one. No officer if he be honest need fear the people.

I have now no fears in meeting you. I did not come to make explanations and therefore have none to make. But I am ready to answer any question that may be put to me. I have heard that the aristocratic crew already mentioned, have met and subscribed money and entered into a regular league to oppose my Election by every means in their power. They say "let us throw Connell out, and Municipal Corporations will soon be put an end to." I cannot think such a result would follow, even if I be not returned. The people have become awakened to their rights, and no exertion can stay the progress of reform, or retard them in their onward march.

Our by-road law is not perfect and should be amended, believing your wish was to have the money granted in gross to the Council for distribution and for expenditure by persons elected by yourselves, and not by those appointed by members for electioneering purposes, I endeavored to have it so granted, and had a correspondence with Mr. English on the subject which I will read, (here Mr. C. read a letter addressed by himself to Mr. E.) I mention this matter to prevent misrepresentation hereafter—I acted from principle, whether it was an error is for you to pronounce.

I had good friends in the Legislative Council, and did not stand alone as some here reported. I did not leave it without regret, but a sense of my duty to you was above every other feeling. It is no easy matter to get an appointment to the Legislative Council, and the honor ought to be more prized for the difficulty in obtaining it.

The pay of a Councillor is as good as that of a member of the Lower House—last Fall in the short Session it was better—so it will be seen that the increased pay was no object, much as I am said to love money.

If I had not complied with this requisition,