

dam were of a strictly private character, although they were carried out by Captain Beatty and other engineering officers belonging to Portsmouth, but who have no interest of their own in the result.—As a noteworthy fact, it may be added that in the mill-dam, and close to where the experiments were made, are two large iron drains, which discharge themselves in its centre, and that the presence of so large a body of metal had no influence on the success of the operations by producing a counteracting influence.—*Globe.*

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1854.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.

Municipal institutions had their origin at a very early date in England's history. In their first stages they were but crude and little understood.—But as people became educated and intelligent—as their minds became expanded, and as they began to think and reflect upon their wants and to see the actual necessity of an improvement in their social and civil relations, then it was that alteration after alteration was effected, and improvements infused into their system of local government. It is well authenticated that self-government has been in existence in England for several centuries, although it was, as we have already intimated, but partial in its operations and imperfectly understood. The passage of the Reform Bill gave an impetus to this system of local control, and established it upon a basis that it never before enjoyed. These institutions have been opposed in their every stage of improvement, and it is not a little singular that the chief opposition with which they have had to contend, has been from persons in office and in power, who were evidently determined to keep the people in ignorance; and their motive in so doing may be easily understood. This was the case in Canada. This has been the case in New Brunswick. The late Government of this Province while they affected a liberality of sentiment in relation to Municipal affairs, and take to themselves the credit of having introduced a system of managing local interests that assimilates, as they say, to that prevailing in England, yet their every act, while in power, proves that they were hostile to its introduction, and that they were determined, in every possible way, to prevent its coming into operation.

The Act of Incorporation, such as it is, and we have no hesitation in denouncing it as the most perfect piece of humbug, and the most unstatesmanlike piece of legal phraseology that ever emanated from an Executive board, in this Province at least—was only granted, and the right of the people to manage their own local affairs was only conceded from the pressure without—from the unmistakable voice of public opinion declaring in its favour.

The Act sets out with the following truism—“Whereas for the better protection and management of the local interests of her Majesty's subjects, it is expedient that Municipal Authorities be established in this Province.” Had the provisions of the Act been in accordance with such a declaration, the honesty and sincerity of the late Government could scarcely have been called in question. But no! they determined to throw the apple of discord among the people, and instead of making imperative that which they had promulgated as “expedient,” they declared that whenever two-thirds of the Rate Payers upon property voted in favour thereof, the County thus applying might become incorporated. This we believe is unprecedented in English legislation, and we think no instance of a similar nature can be found in the annals of New Brunswick. The framers of this Act discovered a thorough acquaintance with human nature by their introduction of such a clause as this. They knew that the old leaven of Toryism would be on the alert; they knew that every scheme, that every influence would be exerted by those in power to thwart the efforts of such men as were desirous of bringing about a better state of things, and the result has fully verified their sagacity, by the failure of every County attempting to become incorporated, excepting Carleton alone.

The Government told the people in effect that although we have declared to the world that the day has arrived, when the march of improvement and the force of public opinion has rendered it expedient and necessary that Municipal authorities should be established in this Province, yet you by a one-third vote may prove such language to be false, that the position we have assumed is utterly untenable, and that in New Brunswick,

henceforward, the minority shall rule. Oh consistency! thou art a jewel.

It will very naturally be asked, why is it that the Government were so determinedly opposed to the introduction of Municipal Authorities? And why is it that Magistrates and other officials are generally opposed to wholesome and necessary reform? The Government, we presume, are very tenacious of what was once styled their prerogative. They wish to retain the power of making certain appointments, whether it meets the approbation of the people or not. They like to put people under obligations to them, and thus they seek to exercise an influence, that they know must and will tell in their favour, by the return of certain Candidates to the Legislature that will support their peculiar political views. We do not pretend to say that this desire for power is peculiar to one class of politicians more than another. We fancy that there is not much difference on that score.

Magistrates do not like to be called to book for their management of County affairs. They cannot brook the idea of the people enquiring why this was done, and why that was left undone; why such an account was allowed and such a one rejected. Magistrates generally evince an unwillingness to comply with the law which requires a detailed account of the financial expenditure of Counties to be laid before Grand Jurors. We judge thus from the complaints we hear from the different Counties in the Province, and we know that it has often been complained of in Carleton. The love of power frequently leads to its abuse, and it may be to prevent an exposure of this nature that such gentlemen are so often found in the opposition. These remarks do not apply to all Magistrates, for we know several in this County, as well as in other sections of the country, that are desirous of promoting the social improvement of the people.

The advantages to be derived from the introduction of self-government are so varied and so extensive, that it would be impossible in an article like this to give anything like a fair description of them. The first and perhaps the greatest advantage to which we can refer is the direct supervision it gives the people over their own local affairs. And here the whole system contrasts so favorably with that irresponsible system that has borne so long like an incubus upon the Country at large, that we almost wonder that any body of men, apart from the reasons we have already assigned, could have a moment's hesitation in accepting it at once. No County can be taxed unless by the consent of the people through their Representatives in Council; and no Parish can be assessed but by the consent of the Councillors for that Parish. Should an account be presented of an extravagant nature, it can be vetoed by the Council; and the Council if they pass anything of that sort are responsible to the people who, at their next annual election can dispense with the services of such Representatives. The people have access at all times to the books of the Council. They can enquire, and they have a perfect right to enquire, and to be informed of the liabilities of the County, so that they need not remain ignorant of the exact state of their financial affairs.

But these are not the only advantages to be derived. The very working of these institutions has a tendency to educate the people, and to lead them to reflection. They thus become acquainted with the Constitution and with the Government of their own Country. They necessarily become acquainted with a system of legislation, and we have no doubt that many of our young men will find these institutions complete and effective stepping-stones, as it were, to higher honours in our Provincial Parliament. Such has been their tendency elsewhere; and it was only a few days ago that we saw the announcement of several gentlemen appointed to important offices in Canada, who, it was said, had obtained their legislative knowledge through their connection, as Councillors, with Municipal Institutions.

Our limits this week will not allow us to follow up this part of our subject. We shall probably return to it again.

We are glad, and as we stated last week, we congratulate the people of this Province, that that obnoxious feature—the two-third vote—has been removed from the Act of Incorporation. We hope that a brighter day has dawned upon the local interests of New Brunswick, when there will be one general call for Incorporation. York, one of the most intelligent and highly favoured Counties in the Province is to test the question in the month of December. We hope that every right thinking inhabitant of that noble County will be at his post on the day of trial, and prove by his vote, by his influence and every laudable means in his power, that he will no longer submit to the dictates, to the whims and caprices of an irresponsible body.

Our Act of Incorporation ought to be revised and rendered better adapted to the peculiarities of the Province. We should like to see it assimilated to the system prevailing in Canada. There, we understand, each Parish, by its Councillors, manages its own business, and the Chairman, or Reeve as he is termed, of each Parish form what is termed the County Council, where business belonging solely to the County, can be more effectually and more satisfactorily managed than by our system, from the fact that the time of the County Council will not be taken up in discussing matters purely parochial.

York and Carleton united can procure this desirable alteration. From the favourable disposition of the present Government towards Municipal Authorities, we feel confident that the Act can be amended, or a new one obtained, that will place the management of the local interests of the County on such a basis that scarcely any County in the Province will have the least hesitation in accepting it.

A Telegraph Despatch via Quebec Line has been received, but the source, the *New York Times*, a paper said to be in the interest of the Emperor Nicholas, is not to be relied upon, and we therefore forbear giving it publicity until we see it confirmed. It purports that three English and three French vessels had attempted to bombard Petropolis, a Russian town on the eastern shore of Kamschka, and that they had been repulsed with loss. A short time will confirm the intelligence if correct.

We are indebted to John Simpson Esq., for the first volume of the Revised Statutes of New Brunswick, which is a handsomely bound and exceedingly neatly printed volume; the following notice of the work from the *Head Quarters* is very much to the point.

“We have to thank the Queen's Printer for a copy of the first volume of the Revised Statutes of New Brunswick, published at the Royal Gazette Office. It is printed in octavo form, and its typographical arrangement and accuracy are very creditable. We believe the Law Commissioners have performed their arduous duties in a manner which must meet the approval of the public, as the volume before us contains the Statutes in a very plain and comprehensive form.

Mr. Beek has displayed a taste and skill in the binding which, we think, will bear comparison with anything of the kind we have seen.

Communication.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel.

MR. EDITOR:—It is strange after all the bustle and fine talk, of establishing Municipal Corporations, in and for the County of Queen's, that the thing has died a natural death to a great many. Talk was quite cheap at the commencement of establishing the above law, but when they found it required the shoulder to the wheel, they shrunk from the task and fell in the rear. A Requisition was got up and signed by sixty freeholders, which was thought to answer the requirements of law, and handed to our Sheriff, last June, and from that time until this, we have never heard from it. However, well knowing that the Sheriff as few as others is against us to the letter, there is a well unflinching principals who are still bound to bring it into existence, and if sixty freeholders will not answer, we can raise five hundred and sixty which will cause a shaking among the Crown'd gentlemen. Perhaps they think the source is weak from whence it issued, but they will find themselves having to yield in humble submission ere one twelve months passes away, or call me no Prophet. And it is a fact not to be denied, that the present rulers of this County, are no better than Blood-suckers; they talk and drink, and the poor people have to stand the treat, or no go. Don't be deceived. While they pretend to strengthen the pillars which support our Temple of Liberty, they are often, by their very acts, undermining its base; and the people of Queen's need not be surprised if the whole fabric comes down one of those days with an awful crash, and upon its ruins spring up the deadly upas of despotism. The fact need not be concealed, that our present rulers who are feeding upon Government fodder, will gamble, play cards, throw dice, make use of profane language, quarrel, fight duels, and drink gin cocktails. It is true they go to Church, but it is for forms sake.—They seldom read their Bibles, and their bosoms are well stuffed with selfish pride and vanity; instead of walking and watching upon the watch-towers of the nation, they are loafing and idling their time away, therefore do not be deceived, in your estimation of them, over such hewers of wood and drawers of water as we common folks are.—They may preach as much they please about the

rights and privileges of the poor; all they care for is the glory and honour of their stations. They are always ready in sacrificing paltry words for the sake of freedom, but you don't catch them sacrificing anything of greater value. They ask you to give them a boast in the tree of office; and what do they do for you? Why they eat the apples, and leave the cores to you—and I regret to see so many of our bright intellectual men contented with such persecution, when so many lessons they have learned, and examples set before them, by different sections of the Province. And now to the people of Queen's, my native soil, first the word, and then the action. Let us do our duty and all will be well, let us look after the business of our own County, by adopting Municipal Corporations.

E. H. WHITE.

Cambridge, Queens Co., Nov. 1, '54.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF SEBASTOPOL.—Every one has heard of Sebastopol, but every one has not heard of Colonel Upton, for many years the chief engineer of that redoubtable fortification. Mr. Upton was the surveyor of the Dunchurch and Stratford road and resided at Daventry many years.—His name frequently appears in parliamentary reports of the Commissioners of the Holyhead-road, between the years 1818 and 1826. All the great improvements on the above line were made under his superintendency; and Mr. Telford, who was the engineer of the Holyhead-road, had the highest opinion of his acquirements, and took every opportunity of stating his opinion of him to the commissioners.

Mr. Upton got into a course of expensive living unwarranted by his means, and was induced to commit many gross frauds on the trustees of the road. These frauds were discovered in the month of April 1826, and, on enquiry by a competent person employed, it was discovered that he had trespassed upon the funds of the trustees to an amount exceeding £2000. Evidence was taken at the time of the facts, and he was held to bail to appear at the July assizes following, to answer to the charge. He appeared at the assizes, and answered when called upon to plead. The trial did not come on the first day of the assize. He had been given to understand by his solicitor that he would be merely indicted for a fraud, but he obtained information he could not doubt that he would be indicted for forgery, and, if found guilty, would probably be hanged.—He slept at Northampton, got up about 7 o'clock said he was going to take a walk, and said he should return to breakfast. He did not, however, appear again, and, as it seemed, went that morning to London.

By some means he got a recommendation to the Russian authorities in London, received the appointment of engineer, and was in a few days on his way to the Crimea. We have heard by what means he obtained his recommendation, but if we were to publish them they would implicate parties whose characters were unimpeached. As talents are much more highly prized in Russia than honesty, it is possible that his real character might have been given. Talents are the first thing required in that country, and the surest guarantee for honesty is the certainty of being hanged, if you are detected in being otherwise. When Mr. Upton went to Sebastopol, the harbour was in a very inefficient state, and in vain had several engineers endeavoured to improve it. There was great difficulty in getting the water into it, so as to admit large ships. He procured immense iron works at Birmingham, and by dint of science, labor, and expense, he made it what it is.

The whole time of his residence in the Crimea he has been engaged in the fortifications in the Black Sea, and has been for some years the chief engineer at Sebastopol. The Emperor was so pleased with him that he gave him the rank of Lieutenant-colonel in the army, and he was received at the palace at St. Petersburg. In addition to his numerous forgeries and frauds he got upward of three thousand pounds of the money of his wife's relations, not one farthing of which did he repay. He held the post office at Daventry for a year, and at the end of it was a defaulter of nearly three hundred pounds, which one of his sureties was obliged to pay. He died about a year ago, and has left a name (infamous though it be) more durable than the brass artillery he planted at Sebastopol.—*Northampton (England) Herald.*

Among the items of news from the Crimea by the last steamer, was a statement that a Mr. Upton had been captured by the allied forces in the vicinity of Sebastopol, and that important information was expected to be derived from him. Probably he is a son of the colonel whose history is given above. *New Brunswick.*

The British Parliament is further prorogued to the 15th of November.