

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1856.

On Tuesday last, according to notice, a Court was holden at the Shire Town, for the nomination of Candidates to represent this County in General Assembly. After the usual preliminaries—

Abner Bull, Esq., nominated Charles Connell, Esq.; which was seconded by Mr. J. Bennett.

Benjamin Churchill, Esq., nominated Charles Perley, Esq.; seconded by Mr. James Edgar.

George Clowse, Esq., nominated L. R. Harding, Esq.; seconded by Mr. Edward Orser.

The following is a Report of the speeches delivered on that occasion:—

ABNER BULL, Esq., in proposing Charles Connell, Esquire, said, he had much pleasure in again nominating this gentleman, as he had done on a former occasion. Mr. Connell has been brought up among us, and it has ever been his highest aim to develop the resources of his native county. He (Mr. B.) hoped that the Electors would shew their proper appreciation of Mr. Connell's services, by voting for him on Saturday next.

Mr. Bennett seconded the nomination. He for his part, stood before the electors free and independent. He had never been bought or bribed by any one. As for Mr. Connell, his conduct in the House spoke for him. He has endeavoured to roll back the days of darkness; he has ever nobly stood for the people's rights. Agreed with Mr. C. with reference to King's College; involved in debt, we are yearly spending immense sums of money on that establishment, which benefits but a few, and in which the poor man's son has no chance.—As to the prohibitory law, if it be the minds of the majority, it should be repealed; but according to the feeling of my own heart, this should not be done.—We were told that Municipalities would be an injury to us, but I think this audience will agree with me that we are much better off than before the County was incorporated.

MR. BENJAMIN CHURCHILL in nominating Mr. Perley said: He can speak for himself. He is the first farmer in the County. Many of you have had dealings with him as a merchant and lumberer, and have always found him upright, candid, and honest. I have no doubt if you elect him, he will serve you to the best of his ability.

MR. CONNELL'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen, Freeholders of the County of Carleton.—I again appear before you as a candidate for your suffrages. My mover and seconder, have each made a few observations respecting my past conduct. I am desirous of expressing the proud satisfaction I feel in being introduced to you on this occasion by the same gentlemen, who on a former similar occasion did that office for me. I am pleased, gentlemen, to see so many of you here. It expresses the deep interest you feel in what is going on.—this is what I have long wished for and desired to see.

I have for a long time represented you in General Assembly; and it is due to you and to myself, that I should call your attention to those matters of importance which have recently been brought under the notice of the Legislature. I know there is a party in this Province who would grind me to the dust, and sink me to eternal political oblivion; but their efforts deter me not, nor will they affect me so long as I enjoy the confidence of you, Electors of Carleton, and of those who are in the Legislature with me.

At the last meeting of the Legislature, I had scarcely taken my seat, before matters in which you were deeply interested, came up, viz., the subject of introducing Railroads; and after serious thought and talk on the matter, I became convinced of the desirableness of having our country traversed by Railroads. Had we a railroad to St. John, instead of being shut out from that market for six months of the year, it would be always accessible; we could gradually supply it, have a regular price for the produce of our farms, and thus prevent those irregularities in the supply and price of articles, an evil felt by consumers and producers, and beneficial only to a few. I feel it due to the Hon. J. Robertson, to say that he has ever been the steady and unflinching friend of the Quebec line, so called, and has repudiated the contemplated North Shore line. Lured upon him the necessity of promoting the Quebec line; as I did also upon the Attorney General, but the latter assured me he could do nothing towards it, for he was overruled by the rest of the Council. However, the Attorney General did the best he could.

I opposed the Government in the House last winter, and for this I have been much abused; but I had an object in view—the furtherance of your interests—and I accomplished that object. Did you send me to sit down the willing and obsequious servant of the Government, and to do whatever they told me? I think not. ("Nowe did not.") If I understand the matter right, you sent me there to contend for your rights; and when it appeared to me that the course the Government was pursuing was not toward this end, I opposed them, and expressed my want of confidence in them. For this I have been branded as having joined the Tories. But far from this. No! I would cut off my right hand first. Had the arrangement which was understood, in the event of the overthrow of the Government, gone into effect, no doubt the present unfortunate event would not have occurred; and we would have had an Executive, as pure and liberal as I could desire. The members of the Government said to me, you will ruin us if you continue this opposition. Add us in this matter, and we will do all for you we possibly can. But I was indelibly determined to go with

no government unless by so doing I could secure your rights.

To show you my position—p 61 Journal. Afterward the Government brought down the Bill.—Was there any thing in it about spending money between Fredericton and Woodstock? I was not satisfied, but managed to have two important points inserted; first, that the line between Fredericton and Woodstock should be surveyed this year; second, that £50,000 should be spent on line above Fredericton.

I may here mention that a large sum has been expended on the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad, and prospects are favourable to the immediate continuation of that line.

I have been called an office-seeker. Oh, yes! he wanted office,—but I have had the offer of an office, and refused it; and nothing would induce me to take office but a belief that by so doing I could greatly advance your interests.

I assisted to introduce Municipal Corporations because I conceived they would be a benefit, and because a majority of the people seemed to desire them; and in this, as in all others, I may here emphatically say, I believe in the majority ruling! When you first consulted about the propriety of applying for a charter of incorporation for the County of Carleton, I strongly recommended it. I pointed out the great benefits and blessings which, in my belief, would attend it; and I think I can confidently appeal to you to-day, that I was not deceived, neither did I deceive you.

The reasons why I agreed with those who wished to have the Town incorporated, are self-evident—the necessity of having some association of those whose interests are in the town, vested with local authority to protect those interests. There were in this Bill, some objectionable sections: these it was my care to have either removed, or clauses inserted allowing them only to come into force when the County Council agreed to it.

Mr. Bennet, in seconding my nomination, made some reference to King's College. In 1852, I moved for return of certain papers relating to that institution, as I was anxious to lay before the country an account of the enormous expenditure for its support; but being in the Legislative Council, was not able to accomplish my object. In 1853, Mr. Smith brought in a Bill to suspend the grant. The Government cry then was, let us try it a while longer—appoint a Commission to investigate.—A Commission was appointed.—A Report made, and the matter left just where it was before. Last winter, I brought in a Bill, feeling determined that something should be done; but Government was divided in opinion, though all anxious that something should be done. The old party were rampant and furious, and for five days I fought that Bill through; much ill feeling was displayed by the Tories—blood was nearly spilt—hon. members shook their fists in other hon. members' faces, until the storm was allayed with closed doors.

I speak now on the general subject of Education. I am for direct taxation for the support of schools. Common schools should be free; and I would recommend the establishment in each County of a superior school—the benefits of which might be participated in by all classes. But we want no College—unless the different denominations require it; and if they do, let them build them and support them themselves—with some little assistance, which I, for one, would be willing to give, from the public chest. But away with King's College.—£3,000 a year to educate 8 or 10 boys! 62 altogether have left it, and £150,000 have been spent. This! this is the way you have been robbed.—(Cries of "we know it, we know it.")

Before the codification of the laws, there was one on the Statute Book, by which none were allowed without licence, to preach, except Ministers of Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches; but this had become a dead letter. By the late law only the Churches referred to had the power of performing the rite of matrimony; others had to go with him in had to the Secretary's Office to ask permission. All I wanted was fair play, and to have all denominations placed on an equal footing. This was opposed by Government. Attorney General Street then proposed that all alike should obtain certificates from the Secretary. To this I assented, but the Government refused to sanction it. After five days debate, I succeeded in obtaining a law giving all denominations a right, by virtue of their ordination, to perform the marriage ceremony.

Many very bad things have been said respecting the course I have taken with reference to the appointment of the present Sheriff. Much dissatisfaction had been expressed at the conduct of the ex-Sheriff, and I received a memorandum which was signed by eight members of the Municipal Council, requesting a change, and recommending a successor; and upon this I felt it my duty to act. I did not desire to injure the reputation of the old man, who was not continued in his office; on the contrary, I felt desirous to spare his feelings, and never would have said as much as I have, but that I was forced to, in self-defence, and for the promotion of your interests. But, when Mr. Allen, shortly after he had for the first time taken his seat in the Assembly, where he had been sent by the Liberals of the County of York to support the Government,—for with no other views and by no other influence could he have obtained that seat,—when he (Mr. A.) so generously came forward as champion for your rights and liberties, and would overthrow the Government for presuming to remove a man from an office which he had questionably filled for twenty years,—on the mere representation of the nobodies whom you had sent to represent you in the General Assembly,—then it was that I and my colleagues were forced to prove and maintain the justice of our position, and show there were reasons why a new Sheriff should be appointed. I have been charged with uttering, on the floor of the House, charges which were not correct; and we have been challenged to come out over our proper signatures with the same. Gentlemen, you, I believe, have confidence in me

and my acts; I know, I think, the proper course to pursue, and shall pursue it. Here I reiterate what I then said, and take back not one word; and if any evidence is required to prove the correctness of my position, there are numbers surrounding me (One man cried out "twenty"), and the last "Sentinel" contains a pretty forcible one.

With the present Sheriff you are acquainted. You have for years reposed confidence in him as Warden of the County, and I believe that confidence is well founded. He has had difficulties to contend with, and has felt the oppression of grasping officials; and in this you have a guarantee that his sympathy will be with the suffering. One thing is certain, unless Mr. Dickinson conducts himself better than did J. F. W. Winslow, his term of office is short. I will just refer again to the beautiful consistency which has marked Mr. Allen's short political career. He was, as I have said, returned by conciliating a portion of the Liberals of York, ostensibly to support the Government. Now he is Solicitor General in a government rank, possessing the confidence of none!

There is no truth in the statement that the Liquor Law is what has brought us here to-day; this is but a cloak to cover the designs of Governor Sutton. But, with reference to the Liquor Law: You know I have long been a strong advocate for temperance. I am an advocate for the rule of majority: a majority of the people asked for the Law, and I was bound to go for it. If the law is inoperative, it were useless for it to remain on the Statute Book; a better law should be substituted. One thing I heartily desire, that, whatever the nature of the law, the people would unite to carry it out. One evil, I fear, is springing, and will result from this law, viz., the establishment of private distilleries.

I do not believe the people desired dissolution, against which there were strongly evident objections. An important session had just closed, during which many important measures had passed, and it was desirable that the Attorney General should proceed immediately to England, and make the necessary final arrangements for the commencement of our railroads. Now the Governor's tyrannical and despotic act has impeded these operations, and retarded the advance of the country. I believe the Governor has violated our constitution. The British Government desire that these Provinces should be governed according to the well understood wishes of the people, expressed through their representatives. But, on the contrary, our Governor has taken the advice of the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, and a few others of the same political stamp, and disregarded the wishes of the people, as expressed a few weeks previous; has dissolved the House, and called about him a body of men taken from that dying and almost extinct party who so long misruled and sucked the life-blood from the country. These the Governor regarded as most fitting companions for him; he could not bear to fraternize with those who came up from the people. Acts like this drove Canada to rebellion. Will we submit to be trampled upon by a man who is sent out here to draw a high salary from us, and look after imperial interests, or by a body of men who have already fattened upon the life-blood of the country, and almost destroyed its vital interests?

With reference to the pay of officials, I do not think, with the exception of the Governor, their salaries are too high; but that of the Governor is entirely too high. However, these things will speedily be remedied. The time is fast coming when a new state of things will prevail: when the Governor will be elected by the people. I believe the children are now existing in this country who will yet fill the office of its Governor. In Canada an important step has been taken: there the Legislative Council is elective.

Gentlemen, if I am returned I will not go for any body of men who will sit with our present Governor. I trust the next Legislature will be composed of men who will plainly tell John Thomas Manners-Sutton that he has done an act which will consign him to that state to which the past has consigned the Falklands, the Arcturs, and the Heads.

I have, gentlemen, an abiding confidence in you, an abiding confidence in the Imperial Government. I have now, I trust, clearly explained my views to you. I have never received office, never received one shilling except my regular pay as a member. My interests are identical with yours. I have large interests at stake. I expect to live here.—I hope to die here,—and here, I trust, my children will abide. On Saturday next you are to decide. Should you elect me, it shall be my high aim to serve you in an independent and liberal manner.

MR. PERLEY'S SPEECH.

Freeholders of the County of Carleton.—At the solicitation of many of my friends, I have consented to allow myself to be put in nomination as a candidate for your suffrages; and in doing so it becomes my duty to state to you my political views. For 30 years you have known me and are fair judges as to whether I may be trusted. It has been reported of me, that I had joined the old Tory party but Gentlemen have any of my acts in the past given any grounds for this opinion? You may remember when in '43 I had the honor of representing you in the Assembly—when I dissented from the address to Lord Metcalfe—how I, in common with those who voted as I did, were branded as rebels by the *Royalist* newspaper, the then mouth-piece of the Tory faction. I have been and I am a Liberal: it is true I did raise my voice against the introduction of Municipal Corporations. I there stated my views—I had conscientious objections, and believed that they were calculated to do harm. But now, Gentlemen, I am happy to have this opportunity of testifying that I was then deceived, and now am perfectly satisfied of their utility. I feel bound to respond to Mr. Connell's statement with reference to action of the Governor in dissolving the House. I was one of the first who received the intelligence here and it came upon me

like a thunderbolt. The Governor has but a poor excuse in the pretended evils resulting from the Prohibitory Law; for whatever loss may be sustained by the falling off of the revenue, the evil will but be increased by the turmoil, strife and excitement necessarily attendant upon a new Election.—As for the Prohibitory Law, I do not believe in coercion; I fear we are in a worse state than we were before the passage of the Law, and was much pained yesterday to see a load of liquor brought into our village and the Law and its officers ineffective to prevent it. I feel much on this subject. I feel deeply for those who have so anxiously fought for this principle, especially for Mr. Tilley—a Gentleman I have long known and respected, of whom his countryman should be proud, and whom I regard as one of the most worthy young men our Province has produced. I have seen a petition headed by the Lord Bishop of Fredericton requesting the Governor to dissolve the House—but I ask what business had he to interfere? I think the sooner he concludes to mind his own business, and withdraw his influence the better. I am and was opposed to the arbitrary act of the Governor in dissolving the House. I have, to a certain extent, been satisfied with Mr. Connell's course with reference to King's College. No one can say but that that course was somewhat justifiable—the sooner that institution is changed the better. So far from my having joined the Tories, I am, and hope to remain, a true liberal, perfectly willing to go with Mr. Connell in any measure I consider for the good of the County, and think we might agree in politics. With reference to the Sheriff's case I do not go for condemning a man unheard.—I think there should have been a commissioner appointed to investigate the charges; the general feeling seemed to be sympathy for an old man who had lost office, but in my opinion, neither age nor sympathy should shield a public officer in dereliction of duty. Mr. Connell and I have generally agreed, and between Mr. Harding and myself there exists no ill feeling, I believe,—you must judge, gentlemen, by my past conduct in life for my future. I felt much annoyed last winter when Mr. Connell opposed the then existing Government; but that gentleman says it was to accomplish certain important ends for your interest. With the present Government as now constituted I have no sympathy and cannot believe that the people of this County will submit to the rule of such a man as John Hamilton Gray, who I do not think possessed of sufficient practical knowledge to carry on a government to the interest of the country. Some of the members he Government I approve of; but I know not that I could vote to sustain a Government with Gray for leader—he never did any good for himself and never will do any good for others. I am glad of this opportunity to explain my views. I belong not to the high Church party. I go for legal rights for all. I should like to see all parties amalgamate and work for the public good, without going to extremes.—Some have said I am too old. I am nearly 60; but my faculties I feel just as good, and I am just as smart to run about after spruce logs and attend to other business, as any of the boys. I have endeavoured to do something to benefit the County; and as I pass through it I often see stock which I have had the pleasure of bringing into the County. I hope in future in whatever station I am, to continue to act for the welfare of this County. It is an age of enlightenment in which no public man dare act otherwise. If you elect me, as in the past so in the future shall I endeavour to prove that your confidence was not misplaced; but so act that you may be proud of me.

Mr. Clowse, who proposed Mr. Harding, now came forward to advance reasons why that gentleman should be returned at the present election.—He pointed out the fact that Mr. H. was instrumental in amending the Municipal Bill, by striking out some objectionable sections, and conforming it to the wants and wishes of the country; thought that Mr. Perley, while he acknowledged his errors, had not redeemed them; referred to a three weeks' conference which had taken place in Fredericton, the object of which he seemed to understand to be the promotion of Mr. Perley's interests, who in turn was to sustain the present Tory government; doubted his liberal views, or his carrying them out, if he does it "will be a miracle." Seemed to think the talk about equal rights was absurd; he had no such thing; we are no better than Russian serfs. He complained particularly of the enslaved state of the farmers; all others were protected but them. There was but one remedy, to send farmers to the House, and keep out the merchants and lawyers.

Mr. Perley and Mr. Connell were in the same position as farmers; but they could live their farm work done and get a better price for their produce. (A voice from the crowd, "how long do they have to wait for their pay.")

He was for no Liquor Law but such an one as would keep the liquor out of the country, unless for the use of those clergyman who used it.

Mr. Harding is as competent as either of the other two; so far he has done well; so he will continue to do.

MR. HARDING'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen Freeholders of the County of Carleton: Owing to the dissolution of the House, I have been called upon by numbers to offer myself as a candidate to represent you in the Assembly.

I wish to point out some things I went for; and some things I opposed.

The Governor has invaded your rights with a high hand and an outstretched arm. Such an act of tyranny against all Liberals was never perpetrated in a British colony.

I hold in my hand a late number of the *Religious Intelligencer*; and, as that expresses my views exactly, I will read it, and thus shorten my conversation. (Here Mr. H. read an article from the last "R. Intelligencer.")

These views are mine, and I feel determined to advance them to the best of my ability. I have ever entertained these liberal views, at a time when