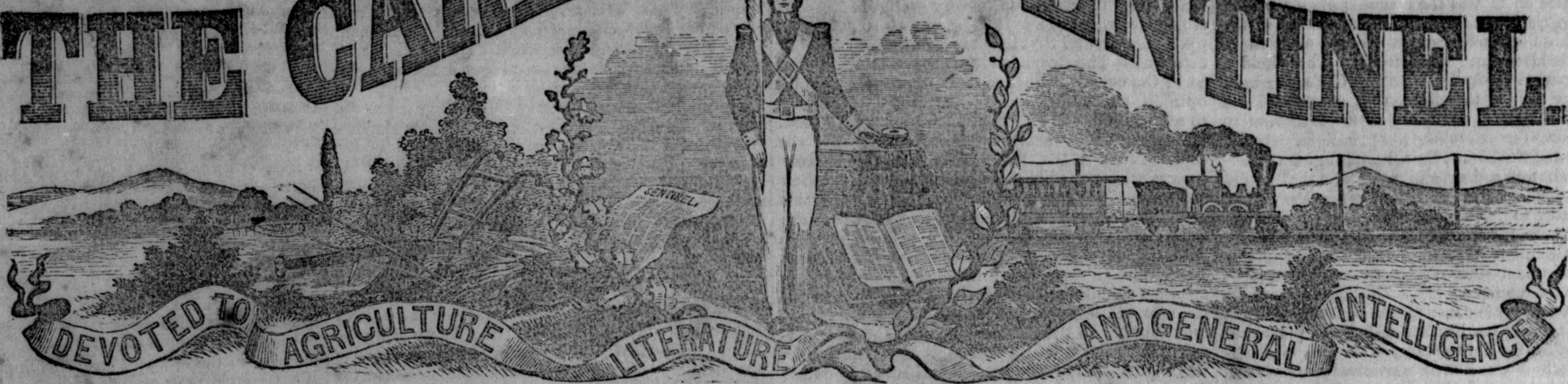


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"OUR QUEEN AND CONSTITUTION."

[By JAMES McLAUCHLAN.

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NO. 27.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Reported for the Carleton Sentinel.
No CONFIDENCE QUESTION.

[NOTE.—Our Reporter has omitted to furnish us with the speeches delivered by Mr. Gray and the Attorney General on this important subject. We regret that this should be the case, as it breaks up the connection. They will probably come to hand in time for this week's impression.]

Mr. Connell rose and said that he had a few remarks to make on Mr. Gray's resolution, as the second thereof. The question was an important one, inasmuch as it was designed to effect a change in the government, and, if rumour was to be believed, perhaps a dissolution of the House. These intimations had no effect on him. He would endeavour to give a few reasons for the information of the House and those he represented, that the course he intended to pursue might be fairly understood. He would say that it was with deep regret he felt himself compelled to pursue the course which the conduct of the government, in his view of the subject, had forced upon him. He had been elected by an independent constituency. He valued their approval of his course far above the highest position in the gift of the government. His private feelings—and he had them as well as other men—would induce him to vote for the government; but he had a public duty to perform, and that he should endeavour to discharge, regardless of the consequences. If he were influenced by any other consideration in the line of conduct that he intended to pursue, he would frankly say that he would no longer desire a seat in this House; but he was satisfied that the position he had taken would meet the approval of his constituents, and the country generally. The Attorney General had said that he (Mr. Connell) and Mr. Gray would not be satisfied with any government unless they had a part in it themselves. Such insinuations, as far as regards himself, he (Mr. C.) would not tacitly submit to, even coming from the leader of the administration. Matters talked of in private ought not to be referred to publicly—they should not be made the subject of discussion in this House. Those referring to Railroads he did not consider confidential, but other conversations with members of the government, he considered to be strictly private, and should be treated as such. He knew what was right, and would pursue that course, and would defend himself from improper imputations. He would say, however, that so far as he was concerned, it was not the fault of the government that he (Mr. C.) had not a seat in the Executive. He had not seen a day since the government was sworn into office that he would have accepted a seat at that Board, although the government and their friends had endeavoured to get an idea afloat that he (Mr. C.) was a suppliant for place. He wanted neither place nor office. He did not say that under certain circumstances he would refuse his aid in carrying on the business of the country. He had endeavoured to pursue an independent course, and such was his determination while he had the honor of a seat in the Legislature. The Government take much credit to themselves in reference to what they intend doing in connection with Railways. Now he (Mr. C.) believed that whatever may be the result of this debate, with reference to the Government, it would settle one point, and that was this, whatever arrangements were made for the establishment of Railways a connection with Canada was indispensably necessary; and no Government could stand that did not make that connection an essential feature of the scheme.

The Attorney General said that the Resolution before the House was drawn to catch votes. That is a fact. "The River St. John," says the leader of the Government, "is now for the first time thought of,—it was a new-born zeal." Perhaps so, then this Resolution will have a good effect on Rail Roads in that direction. If such be the case he (Mr. C.) will be well satisfied. He would ask the Attorney General—Would he as a Representative for the County of York commence operations on a line of Railway from Fredericton to the Canada Line, and from St. John to Shediac; or would he as a Politician commence lines at St. John running East and West? Perhaps the Freeholders of the County of York might be satisfied with such a procedure, but he was confident that the people of Carleton would not. Now he (Mr. C.) wanted no office. He did not come to this House for that purpose. He would just say that his politics was Rail Roads, as he believed that when properly introduced they would lead to the advancement of the Agricultural, Commercial and Manufacturing interests of the country. He wished to see the resources of the Province opened up. Let a plan be laid down such as will show the parties in England from whom we expect to get funds that we are proceeding with prudence; and that the two most promise points had been selected on which to commence operations—one to commence a connecting line with Canada, and the other with Nova Scotia. The Attorney General's plan is to commence at St. John, and run east and west from that point. But this will not do, and will not be sanctioned by this House. He (Mr. C.) was perfectly willing to give his aid to carry into effect a Rail Road comprising that portion already commenced between St. John and Shediac, connecting with Nova Scotia, and then to commence at Fredericton with a line for Canada, carrying on both simultaneously. This latter route would open up an immense district for settlement; it would give us the trade of the eastern part of the State of Maine; and facilitate a large commercial intercourse with Canada. No part of the Province would be more benefited than St. John, once this scheme were fairly in operation. A line of road from the Bend passing Chatham ought to be one of the first objects of the Government to give effect to. He (Mr. C.) had been sent by his constituents to subserve the public interests, and that was the object he had in view. He did not come here to promote his own pecuniary interests; if such had been his desire he would have remained at home. He had no confidence in the Government carrying out such a scheme as that to which he made reference. Neither did he think they would make arrangements with Canada as they ought, and commence operations in that direction from Fredericton simultaneously with operations on the Shediac Road. He had said to the Attorney General that Legislation ought to have preceded negotiation; he thought so still, although he was fully prepared to give them credit for what has been done with respect to arrangements said to have been made by the Honorable Gentleman while in England. He was satisfied that in reference to the scheme which was expected to be developed by the government, honorable members might say that he (Mr. C.) was local in his feelings. If to connect Nova Scotia, and the great country of Canada be local then he must confess he did not understand the meaning of the term. The leader of the government says that nothing will satisfy him (Mr. C.) but a Railroad to the Carleton Copper and Iron Mines. To this he would reply, that the value and importance of these Mines were sufficient to justify the building of a Railway, even if it went no further. The Attorney General had asserted that no member can be returned for York and river Counties op-

posed to the Government. Now the people of York may do as they please. They have three Representatives in this House who can act as they think proper; but he (Mr. C.) will say that if he supported the present Administration in some of their acts, (the appointment of Mr. Waters for one) he thought that he might have as good a chance as some others; but under such circumstances he would not feel disposed to meet them. He knew what course he would pursue if he were seeking to secure an election in the County of York. The scheme of the Attorney General would precipitate the Province into a heavy debt. He (Mr. C.) was a decided advocate for Rail Roads, yet he was not desirous of commencing more than could be completed. We want a connection with Canada. This would enable the people of St. Andrews to connect their road with the Line from Fredericton up, and give an immediate connection to the people of Canada with the Sea board at all seasons of the year. He believed that the value of that portion of the Province would soon justify a commencement in that direction. He had no doubt that so soon as the road was completed to Canada, the increased revenue would fully warrant the expenditure. All would agree that too much should not be undertaken at once. Railways were matters of great interest to the country. The people expected something would be done; and unless something were soon undertaken, honorable members might rest assured that our Province would soon be drained of our youth. He was glad that the Attorney General had attributed to him extravagance in connection with the Bye Road Grants. He was perfectly willing that it should go to the country that it was his fault that the Road Grants last year, for the purpose of opening up new roads to back settlements had been so large. Those Grants had been of the greatest importance to poor people last year, as well as other seasons. They gave them the means of procuring bread for their families.—No expenditures could have been more judicious, or had a better tendency, as they made roads and fed the people. He could not agree with the Attorney General that the amount should be reduced. He (Mr. C.) will pursue the same course this year. Its effects would be to open up new settlements; and far better would it be for members of the government to take a small slice off their own salaries than to endeavour to effect a reduction in this expenditure. In 1850, the then government, (of which the Attorney General was a member,) stopped the Bye Road Grants, which was detrimental to the interests of back settlements. A good deal had been said about the old government. He had helped to turn them out, and under the like circumstances he would do so again.—He had ever advocated progressive views. He had used his influence to get established in the County he represented, local self-government through the medium of Municipal Institutions. The people of that County have learned to value and to prize the value of such institutions. It was the acts of the old government, and not the men, that he opposed; and that was the course he intended to pursue on the present occasion. The advent of the present Government to power was hailed as a liberal party government. He told them at the time of their formation that he should judge them by their acts; he has found that they have acted contrary to their professions; they have been weighed in the balance and found wanting; and he could not give his vote to sustain them any longer. There was a good deal said about certain matters that took place at the formation of the present Government. All that he (Mr. C.) asked of the Government was that his representations with reference to the County which he represented, should have

effect. They had taken their own course, and he had taken his. Latterly they seemed to be actuated by a different disposition, so far as words went, but acts were wanting. He would instance the School Inspector for that County. He did not know, however, what the question of the old Government had to do with the matter now before the House. They had been tried and found wanting as he hoped their successors would be. It was a matter of indifference to him who ruled; all he desired to see was the prosperity of the country.—There is a great difference between acts and words. He would name some of their acts which he knew the country generally did not think in accordance with the liberal professions of the present Government. First, he would ask, had they a right to select a man to fill the high and important office of Auditor General, when they had condemned him on a previous occasion? (Mr. Ryan, you do not condemn them for that.) Yes, he did. They had no right to select a man to fill such an important office with whose principles they had declared themselves to be at variance. It was contrary to the principle on which they assumed office at the time of their formation. Many of the friends of Messrs. Partelow and Wilnot desired their continuance in office. To this he (Mr. C.) did not object; but when he was told by one of the leaders of the party, (he does not now hold a seat in the Government,) that none of the old leaven must remain, if so he would rather that all should return to office in order to give the principle a fair trial, and he (Mr. C.) did not oppose that position. The result was that the present Government were placed in power on liberal principles. Have they sustained that position in the appointment referred to?—No! He was glad that Mr. P. was provided for.—He had long been a member of this House; he had, like other men, his faults, but his place was missed, although that might be convenient for the present Government. Honorable members felt his loss, as he was always considered a standing book of reference as regards the past transactions of the House. The elevation of Mr. Rice to the Legislative Council was a violation of the same principle, as he voted against the present Administration assuming power. Mr. Kinnear belonged to the old Government and by whom his claims had long been overlooked. He certainly could not expect favour from the hands of his successors. He was a man who stood high in the country; he had got into bad company however, and he only had himself to blame for it, but he was provided for; and he (Mr. C.) would say that he was not sorry that such was the case, although it was a direct violation of principle. There were other matters that did not exhibit straight forwardness and independence in the Administration. He would now come to a point and he desired that he might not be misrepresented nor misunderstood. He referred to the addition made to the Executive Council in the person of the Hon. Member from Victoria. Now Mr. Watters was a gentleman with whom his acquaintance was limited. He (Mr. C.) had heard a good report of him, but that was not the point. He hoped the day would never come in this Province when a man would be proscribed for his religious opinions; but he (Mr. C.) considered and it was so understood in the County he represented, that the appointment was forced upon them. If the Government thought that a Roman Catholic should aid in the Councils of the country, why did they not act like men and take one in at their formation. He told the Leader of the Administration and two other prominent members, in October 1854 as he told them now, that the Government had too much Catholic influence in it; and what he then said has since proved to be true. He was for justice and would show