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[By JAMES McLAUCHLAN.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

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FREDERICTON, April 21st.

Very little business was done in the House today, notwithstanding the Session is fast drawing to a close. The bill relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes was opposed by Mr. Tibbits, who stated that he would rather see the Utility Law repealed than consent to the principle which it involved. The bill was rejected on a division.

The proceedings of this day in the House were of the most incongruous and disorderly character. Foremost among the irregulars was the gallant Colonel from Sunbury. This gentleman as soon as he came into the House seemed to attract attention owing to some peculiarities in his attire, and to the roving and unsettled disposition manifested in his habits. First he took upon himself to fill the chair of the Provincial Secretary, and looked around the House as if to court popularity from his temporarily dignified position. Not appearing to meet with the gratification of his wishes, he rambled in great haste into the Speaker's room, but the next moment strutted backward, and was forthwith elevated to the chair in Supply. In this position the gallant Colonel was in ecstasies. Sometimes he would belch forth "O-r-d-e-r," from the top of his voice, merely to let the House know that "I'm in the chair." But I am certain that happiness and wisdom combined, could not have been more prominently displayed in the countenance of the gallant Colonel when Mr. Ryan condescended to pay him a compliment by telling him that he would not vote for a certain grant under consideration. He resembled a Solomon seated on a throne, although his eyes looked like those of a wild cat, his specs being at the time located at right angles on the brow of his venerable cranium. This was the Hon. G. Hayward, M. P. for Sunbury, to which place he had proceeded in haste on Saturday evening.

Mr. Connell's College bill was again before the House. His Honor the Speaker delivered an able speech in favour of the bill. He related some facts connected with the establishment of the College which were important. One of these were that the grants to the Grammar Schools, had been greatly reduced at the time for the purpose of being absorbed into the College. Other important facts were alluded to by His Honor. Mr. Gray eulogized the report of the Commission, and held forth in strong language the necessity of University education. He spoke as though its benefits were implied in the fact, that Agriculturists were in the habit of occasionally importing Ayrshire Bulls and Suffolk Rams, to improve the breed in their stock. A very spicily argument truly for the only two members of the House who has had a sprinkling of a University Education.

April 22nd.

Mr. Connell's bill to abolish the grant to Kings College was taken up early in the day. Slow progress had been made with this bill for several days back, and several members seemed to have a desire to postpone it from time to time, probably with an ultimate view of giving it the go by. The enthusiastic speech delivered yesterday, however, by His Honor the Speaker in support of the bill, brought some members to their senses, and had the effect of having the question taken upon the bill before the members went to lunch this day. The debate on the bill has been of a protracted nature. With the exception of the honorable mover who opened the debate in a speech of one hour, nearly every

member had spoken three or four times on the question, repeating the same arguments, and evincing a determination to delay the business of the country. A few members reprimanded this course in strong terms, the result however is that the bill has been sustained by a majority of three, and if it be not defeated in the Legislative Council, it will remain to be seen what effect its operations will have upon the Educational progress of the country.

In the afternoon that extraordinary Resolution introduced by Mr. McPhelim was taken up. The House seemed disposed to treat it in the most farcical manner, and as the honorable mover in his own eloquent style levelled out his thunders against the Press for abusing and condemning his philanthropic movement, he found himself at the close of his most effective and exceedingly powerful speech, in the unpleasant position of talking to empty benches. The Speakers who followed told Mr. McPhelim that there were different ways of getting out of the House, and one honorable member hinted that sometimes it was done by explosion. The assertion was considered a broad one, but the member for Kent was afterwards assured that the cap was not intended for his wear. Mr. Gray endeavoured to defend the propriety of passing the Resolution, but in doing so he propounded such flimsy doctrines, that he not only completely failed in making converts, but much to his chagrin, was deserted by nearly all of his satellites, who evidently for once seemed thoroughly disgusted at the course their leader was pursuing. So little interest was taken in the speeches of Messrs. Gray, McPhelim and Street, that the great body of the members left their post and wandered outside of the building evidently much more interested in the moving of the ice in the river than they were in listening to such unmeaning twaddle. At a later period in the day it was amusing to see the gallant Colonel get up with his hands as usual in his breeches pockets, and tell the House that he was half sorry that he voted for the Prohibitory Law; he could not with consistency turn round and stultify his own act by voting for this Resolution—an empty excuse, but the gallant Colonel well knows the great risk he would incur if he were compelled to encounter his constituents again. After taking up nearly a half day in discussing this monstrous and unequalled absurdity, the learned mover in his closing speech, had the candour to intimate that he was prompted in the matter by his having no confidence in the Administration. Hence the whole story was explained; but notwithstanding this, ten members were found to record their votes in favor of the Resolution. O! tempora! O! Mores!

April 23rd.

This morning the usually quiet city of Fredericton was thrown into a state of excitement in consequence of a rumour having been circulated that a duel was to be fought on the banks of the Saint John, near the Cathedral, by two of the members of the lower branch of the Legislature. Curiosity was on tip toe to get an inkling of the origin of the cause that was about to give rise to this expected tragical affair. Who are they? was the enquiry that naturally fell from every lip. Aged men shook their heads, declaring that twenty years ago, the world was more civilized than it is at present. Youths talked lightly of the affair, and hinted that whatever might be the result, the world would continue to revolve on its axis as hitherto. Many laughed heartily and wondered what description of weapons the combatants were going to use. But what was the cause of all these surmises, and what led people to descant upon a matter with such voluminous surmise. The facts

are as follows. In the House of Assembly, immediately after the servant of God had invoked the assistance of the Most High to bless the labours of the servants of the people in the discharge of their duties for the public weal, a question came up in the House for final disposition. This was the bill to abolish the grant to King's College. Yesterday Mr. Street told the House that after the bill had been carried, he should give no further opposition to it. Contrary to this avowed declaration, we find Mr. Street exhibiting his hostility to the bill on the third reading. The Hon. Albert J. Smith ventured to remind the House of Mr. Street's assertions yesterday, and of the inconsistency of his present actions. Upon this Mr. Street arose, and with a demoniacal expression of fury in his countenance, belched forth a stream of the most violent and vituperative language towards the Hon. Mr. Smith. None but those who were present could have imagined that a gentleman holding the position of Mr. Street could have worked himself into such a passion. His eyes (or as the honorable gentleman is known to be in the position of Cyclops, the singular should be used,) beamed forth fire. He ground his teeth, and brandishing his fist, turned round upon Mr. Smith, calling him an impudent scoundrel, and using such language towards that gentleman as had never been uttered before on the floors of the House. Had he been applying his remarks to a person as destitute of the qualifications of a gentleman as himself, it is more than probable that a physical struggle would have been the immediate consequence. Fortunately however, for the dignity of the House as well as the dignity of his position, Mr. Smith to his praise be it spoken, displayed the most perfect coolness, and acted as became a gentleman throughout the whole proceeding. This equanimity afforded a striking contrast to the furious conduct of Mr. Street, who had not the manliness to apologize to Mr. Smith for his rashness, nor did he offer an apology to the House until it was drawn out of him by a pressure to which he was reluctantly compelled to yield. This will appear the more extraordinary from the fact of his having told Mr. Smith in the offset that his assertions were false, while he was afterwards compelled to admit that the statements in question were correct, but still had not the straightforwardness to offer an individual apology. Conduct like this, emanating from a gentleman who once held the position of leader of an Administration, must be viewed with surprise by the country. It is said that Mr. Street's deafness is at times very perceptible, but that he does not wish this to be generally known, as it might affect his prospects to a seat on the Bench. Be this as it may, it cannot be doubted that the untoward conduct of Mr. Street on this occasion must have a tendency to operate in a manner prejudicial to his advancement and elevation to eminence. No duel was fought, and it was not until late in the day, that Fredericton again breathed freely, and the public mind was relieved of an incubus which had for a time seriously disturbed its equanimity. The business done in the House the rest of the day was not of very great importance.

April 24th.

The bill to amend the Prohibitory Law by dint of perseverance succeeded in undergoing a sifting to-day. There was a strong opposition even to taking the bill up, which manifested itself in the canvass made to secure the object. When the bill was fairly committed there was a miniature repetition of the same proceedings which so often characterized the present Session. I allude to the habit of making Temperance speeches, which in themselves are well, but not essential for the speedy transaction of the business of the Country on the

floors of the Legislature. The question however on this occasion seemed to be approached with more shyness than usual, and several members absented themselves from the House, solely it was said for the purpose of shirking the responsibility of voting. The gallant Colonel was at his post, and with his usual frankness got up and told the House that his constituents were for the Prohibitory Law, that he had voted to sustain it, but whether the present bill would or would not make the Law work effectually, he was determined to support its postponement for three months. For this open and avowed inconsistency, the gallant Colonel was taken to task by Mr. Tibbits, who expressed surprise that Mr. Hayward should thus express himself after he had wanted to see the Law have a fair trial, and when he knew this bill would make it more effective. He believed that the gallant Colonel's constituents would remember his inconsistent conduct on this occasion. Mr. T. advocated the necessity of making the Law perfect, and if it was not found to work well, he should vote for the Repeal at the next Sessions. Mr. Wilnot's vote on this occasion was also irreconcilable with his assertions, and indeed his whole course on the question of Prohibition, cannot but be regarded as the most incongruous. The bill was postponed for three months, in the absence of five professedly tectotal shirking members.

The House was in Supply and made extremely slow progress therewith. A proof of this is evident from the fact that more than one-third of the whole day was taken up in talking over the propriety of giving Colonel Hayne's a sum of money for performing the arduous duties of Adjutant Generalship of the Militia forces in New Brunswick. Some members were for exercising a very benevolent disposition, while others wished to cut the Colonel short without a shilling. Intermediates went for a moderate sum. Amid such a diversity of opinion and the attempt to give expression to the same, the proceedings were the most boisterous and unparliamentary that were possible to be enacted. This state of things has unfortunately been too common of late in the lower branch of the Legislature, and its effects must ultimately tend to lower the dignity of the House. Upon the several amounts that were proposed for Colonel Hayne, a division was frequently called for. Once Mr. End sat down too soon, and the gallant Colonel missed him in the vote. Mr. E. inquired how long he would have to stand. Mr. McPherson answered until the rope was cut, (much sensation.) On another occasion the gallant Colonel said to Mr. L. R. Harding, are you a Yea or Nay, sir.—Mr. H. I'm a Yea. Gallant Colonel,—Very well, then! sit still. After an irregular siege a grant was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman, who was reprimanded by several members for voting against their wishes. The bill to make an extension of time to the Grand Falls Railway Company was taken up late in the day, after many attempts had been made to frustrate it. Mr. Hatheway as usual, warmly supported it, and urged that parties had been waiting here sometime for the bill to pass. Mr. Gray accused the said party of hanging on the outskirts of the House to influence members. Mr. Smith repudiated this doctrine.—Mr. Connell said that the bill only asked for two years extension of time, that the work was of great importance, and its completion would be advantageous to the Province. Mr. Tibbits said the bill was the same as that introduced in a previous part of the Session. He did not see how any man could object to it, and he hoped it would pass. Mr. Gray and several others persisted in opposing the bill.

A motion to report progress was lost, after which the bill was sustained in Committee.