

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1856.

It was expected that upon the assembling of the new House, any Petitions which had been presented to His Excellency, praying for a dissolution, and upon which it was supposed the dissolution was based, would without delay be laid before it.

Very many persons seemed to entertain the opinion that these documents would be found so numerous, and containing so large a number of signatures, that they would in themselves prove an unquestionable justification of the Governor's acts.—It is true that the late Council had never seen any petitions, and that no documents setting forth any good and sufficient reasons why the House should be dissolved, had been laid before them. Still if the supposition—which in the minds of some members of late Government amounted to a certainty—was well founded, that the Governor had made up his mind to get rid of his Council, it would not have been wise policy in him to convince them of the wisdom of his premeditated step, lest they, convinced, should concur, and take the responsibility of the measure. But having succeeded in his every wish, having rid himself of an obnoxious Council and an equally obnoxious House, it was but reasonable to suppose that he would so far condescend as to lay before the House any petitions (if there were any) which sought a dissolution.

Mr. Mitchell, at an early day of the Session, asked for these. The answer of the government was, that they could not be asked for until after the Address was passed; thus placing the House in the extraordinary position of being a jury to determine upon certain acts of a certain party, and being refused the necessary evidence upon which alone a just verdict could be framed. The Address was a mere echo of the speech. In it the Government lauded themselves, and reflected upon the late Government, and upon the late House which sustained them. By the Government votes, and the votes of those members whose loyalty is so antiquated in its stamp, that were the Governor's chapeau to be stuck on a poll they would bow down and worship it, assisted by some members who conscientiously believed that the evidence, when produced, would prove the exercise of the prerogative just. The measure passed by a small majority, but not until facts were elicited by the debate, which in the eyes of the country, must have a damning effect against the Government. The refusal to produce evidence to justify the dissolution, must produce and strengthen in the minds of the unprejudiced, the conviction that personal feeling and back-stairs influence had much to do with His Excellency's determination. Another fact drawn out during the debate, must, we think, operate powerfully upon the opinions of all principled men.—The almost unanimous opinion before the House met, was that the Proclamation ordered by His Excellency, and which was prepared by Mr. Tilley, was the proclamation which dissolved the House; such was the notion of the Executive, for upon it they resigned, having distinctly stated that when the House was dissolved, they would resign. Yet the facts eliminated in regard to this matter are of such a nature as to awaken suspicion—not to use stronger language—that the Governor did descend to the meanness of a stratagem in order to obtain his own ends.

The facts are these:—There are two seals belonging to the Province; one the Great Seal, the other called the "Governor's Seal." Excepting a little difference in the size, they are alike. When a document has the Great Seal attached, it, according to the views of many, makes it valid without the Governor's signature. But when the other seal is used that signature is necessary. Now the Proclamation prepared by Mr. Tilley had the Governor's Seal—ordered by the Governor for a specific purpose—that purpose being the dissolution of the Assembly. The proclamation was prepared in due form, and sent to His Excellency for his signature, which alone was necessary in order to make it effective: taking it for granted that this would not be withheld, the Council resigned. A new Executive is called: a new proclamation issued, and the House legally dissolved. Comment is unnecessary. Either the Governor intended the first proclamation to dissolve the House, or he intended to make the Council believe that it would have that effect.

After the passage of the Address the Government lost the shelter of the prestige of the Governor's name and position, under which, during the debate, they had so closely clung; and commencing to stand alone, we can better form an opinion of their merits and their influence. The first question with which they became involved, was the "Repeal." It cannot be disputed that the House met intending

to repeal the Liquor Law; upon the necessity for this nearly all were agreed, however painful to many the necessity proved. It was a popular measure, and the Government were anxious & willing to take the responsibility and credit to themselves.—An hon. member, Mr. Sutton, asked leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the importation, &c., of intoxicating liquors. He was assailed with great violence and charged with a disposition to anticipate the action of Government, take the wind from the Government sails, and rob them of the credit which should be allowed them. Mr. S. consented to withdraw his motion on the understanding that a measure, full and explicit, would be brought in by the Government the next morning. But the next morning the Government Bill was found to be merely a provision for repeal; while to Mr. Hatheway, on his own responsibility, was left the duty of bringing in a measure to revive and make effective the Licence Law,—thus shirking the responsibility of the more important measure, and taking to themselves the mighty credit of repealing the Liquor Law. But the House was not napping. The absurdity and fallacy of the manoeuvre was as speedily exposed as detected, and the Government were right glad to be allowed to take the Hatheway measure and engraft it on their own, and thus save themselves from a defeat which otherwise was certain.

In the *Journal* of the 24th, the Editor stated that he would not become the advocate of either of the two great parties in the Province. This was certainly an acknowledgment that the Province was divided into two political parties, and the expressed determination to advocate neither of them may surely be called a neutral theory; and when, in the following paper, a strong party article appeared, strenuously advocating the present Government and its policy, we think we called it by a correct, if not a very elegant or very harsh term,—an upsetting of his neutral theories. Now we do not wish to make theories for our neighbor, but should like to understand those he makes himself. We fear the very independent course he has staked out will give him such infinite latitude that we may as well give up the task: for now he may be groping among the ancient relics of Toryism, to-morrow revelling amid the unrestrained wildness of Radicalism, and next we may find him side by side with us in our quiet endeavors after pure Liberalism. For one thing we think the *Journal* deserves the thanks of all parties, and that is for his willingness that any whose views are the same as his should travel the same road. His idea, if we understand it, is to form his own party—parties follow him, not he parties. It reminds us of an anecdote we once read: A colored individual passing along the street with a coffin, containing the body of a child, which he was taking to interment, coming to a knot of persons assembled in his path, said to them, "Get out of the way,—I's a funeral." So our Editor exclaims, Get out of the way,—I'm a political party.

"REPEAL OF THE PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW."—Under this caption, the *Journal* of last week gives vent to his feelings in language which, no doubt, he intended to be forcible, but which must awaken feelings of indignation in every honest right thinking mind.

It is quite a matter of indifference to us what the Editor of the *Journal* thinks of the late Law; and it is a matter on which, as its fate has been sealed, we were disposed to be silent. But we cannot submit, without notice and resentment to such wholesale abuse as that which is poured out in the article above mentioned; wherein reflections are cast not upon those only who from, from unworthy motives sought the law; not upon those who asked it feeling that it never would be granted but is an aspersion of the character and conduct and motives of the whole 40,000 who respectfully petitioned for that law, and shewed sufficient reasons why their prayers should be complied with.

A large proportion of the intelligence and moral worth of the people of the Province signed the petitions—representing every sect, and class and complexion in society; such men as Dr. Jacob, the highly esteemed Principal of King's College; such men as Charles Simonds, the present Speaker of the House, affixed their names and approved the principle. Ministers of every denomination, we believe, and the almost universal female population—they asked for it; and why? For any mere pecuniary benefit or political advancement? No; the thought were ridiculous. But the tremendous extent to which this great moral evil had advanced; the failure, after years and years of devotion to the cause, through all the means of moral suasion—as moral suasion did not strike at the root of the evil the firm conviction that Law and only Law could complete the work—these led to the Law being asked for. Pure, christian, catholic philanthropy was at the bottom of it, and pervaded it. The

House of Assembly—and they could not do otherwise—passed the Law. The Queen—God bless her—sanctioned it, notwithstanding the efforts of Governor Sutton to prove that such an act would be unconstitutional. But it has not succeeded merely because there was more Loyalty to Rum than Law; because there were more to throw hinderances in its way than to lend it encouragement; because His Excellency and the Bishops, and many of the Clergy and Magistrates opposed it, and it was refused a fair trial. These were the reasons why the Law did not operate well.

And now forsooth, not satisfied with that disloyalty which has made a just Law abortive; not satisfied with an unfairly gained victory,—the *Journal* must exhaust the whole vocabulary of disrespectful and opprobrious epithets for the benefit of the characters above referred to, who sought the Law; and pours out his malignant venom on Men and Women in this community, who are our most respectable, and most worthy and most useful citizens. Out upon such a course say we; out upon the prostitution of the press to such vile such dangerous and such disgraceful conduct.

We are happy in the conviction that, apart from a very select coterie whose opinions find expression through the *Journal*, the sentiments of that paper do not find a response in the minds of the people of this County. Sudden changes are always regarded with suspicion, and it cannot be a matter of surprise if the oscillating policy which has characterized the *Journal* gives rise to some, perhaps ungenerous, suspicions.

That paper was a supporter of the late Government, and of its acts, we believe, with but one exception; it was a denouncer of the Governor's late act; it was for a long time a zealous, persevering, consistent advocate of temperance and the prohibitory law. But mark the change. It is the glorifier of the Governor, the trumpeter of his praises—the organ through which his political virtues are proclaimed; it is the valiant defender of the present Government; it is the bitter, determined, unscrupulous defamer of the late Liquor Law.

Is there no ground, in view of such remarkable changes, for the very natural suspicion that it is a parasite of power, whose life breath is drawn from the favour, and the smiles, and the patronage of those in authority, and whose ambition is to pick up the crumbs that fall from the Government table; whose political conscience is so elastic, that it can embrace with equal fervour, all forms of government, and bow with submissive grace to all the acts, however eccentric, of those who, for the time being, are masters of the offices. If such suspicions are correct—we do not express an opinion on that point—we wish our contemporary joy on the brilliant prospect before him, provided he can only convince the people of the Province, that his views of his friends are correct; but we have slight doubts of this being the result, for we believe there is a power now at work—a power which sooner or later overtakes, and grasps, and crushes its enemies. Intelligent public opinion—which will not long endure trammels and chains—is now writing upon the present administration, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin."

By reference to the Minutes of the proceedings of our Town Council, it will be seen that we are to have plenty of strong drinks. As the doctrine of many was that the Prohibitory Law would ruin the country, now we suppose we may expect to see, under the new order of things, that country advance with rapid strides. In order to realize this, and prove the correctness of the principle, does it become the duty of all good citizens to drink? does true patriotism demand it?

.. Drink, and be drunk then, 'tis your country calls,
Your country needs your throats; ye all can swallow,
And she asks no more."

Perhaps our authorities will take into consideration, whether it would not be well to institute an order of merit, to be bestowed on those who prove the best "drinkers."

We hope that the recent disappointment will not entirely dispirit our temperance friends; but that they will rise superior to reverses, and apply themselves again to the "labour of love." They may have to commence at first principles again; but there are the same calls upon their philanthropy; the same blessings which ever wait on doing good attend them; and that success which truth ensures, before them.

B. O'Brien, Esq., has sent us Chambers's *Journal* for July, and Mrs. Stephens' *New Illustrated Monthly*. This latter is a very fine addition to the list of the monthly magazines in the United States, by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, the celebrated authoress. It is published at the low price of 75¢ per number.

We listened with much pleasure on Wednesday evening to a lecture delivered by Rev. Mr.

Batcheler, on Heathenism, more particularly that of the Hindoos. Mr. B. has recently returned from India, where he has spent twelve years as a Missionary; and his exposition of the nature and effects of Heathenism was touching in the extreme. At the close of his lecture, a native Hindoo, who accompanies him, took the stand, and addressed the audience in his own tongue, which was interpreted by Mr. B.

A lecture, with an exhibition of paintings, explanatory of life and manners among the Hindoos, will be delivered in the Hall of the Institute, this (Saturday) evening. Admission, 1s. 3d.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.—We acknowledge the receipt of a note from Mr. Inches, of the Crown Land Department, giving us notice to discontinue the Crown Land advertisements in our paper. This course has, we believe, been adopted by the present Government toward the opposition papers generally. Of course we do not question the propriety of the step. Next week we hope to be able to express our views more at large upon Party Government, towards which this is one advance. Meanwhile, as we know that the information contained in the Crown Land advertisements is of benefit to very many of our readers, we shall continue them as usual.

Our harbour yesterday afternoon presented quite quite an unusual and very lively appearance. A spirited boat-race took place between a gig owned by J. C. Winslow, Esq., manned with two oars, and a boat owned by Mr. W. Skillen, manned with four. The distance, 2½ miles, was accomplished by the boat in 29 minutes 55 seconds, about 5 minutes in advance of the gig.

We have been requested to direct attention to a special meeting of the Municipal Council of this County to be held next week; and to request that persons intending to take out Licence will attend on Tuesday, as it is likely the Council will be only one day in Session.

In making an extract, a short time ago, from *An Act to regulate the election of Members to serve in the General Assembly*, the first section of the said Act was inadvertently omitted. As it is important for the guidance of Revisors who may not have a copy of the Law, we hasten to supply the omission. It is as follows:

Sec. 1. Every male person of the age of twenty one years or upwards, being a British subject, not subject to any legal incapacity, who shall have been assessed for the year for which the Registry is made up, in respect of real estate to the amount of twenty five pounds, or personal property, or personal and real amounting to one hundred pounds, or one hundred pounds annual income, shall be qualified to vote for Representatives of the County or City, for which he shall be so assessed; if there be no assessment for the Parish in any year, than the possession of the qualification shall of itself be sufficient.

TOWN COUNCIL.

FRIDAY EVENING, August 1.

R. Donaldson applied for wholesale and retail Licence.—Granted.

Mr. Councillor Baird thought this a very summary sort of procedure. He read from the law, proving that Licence should only be granted to parties who were of good character, and who had certain specified accommodations; and there was nothing before the Board to shew that the applicant had these accommodations. [The Mayor suggested that he had better move a re-consideration; he did so, seconded by Mr. Dibblee. The motion was lost.] Mr. Baird then proceeded, that he referred to the matter now, not for the purpose of refusing Mr. D's application, but he wished to see a principle established. He should therefore move that a Committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to inspect the premises and report upon the accommodations of applicants for licence.

The Mayor thought this unnecessary; and the motion was put and lost, no one voting for it. At a late stage, however, the Council approved the principle of Mr. B., by appointing the Marshall a Committee.

The Mayor having stated that there seemed to be a disposition manifested by some parties not to take out Licences, as the price was so high, but to set the law at defiance, and that some persons should be directed to look after violators of the law:

It was moved, that the motion passed last night, fixing the fee at £15 be reconsidered.

Mr. M-Lean was unwilling to pass a Resolution one evening, and rescind it the next. He thought the price about right.

Mr. Dibblee thought the Council when they passed the Resolution, were in the right track, and he for one was disposed to keep right. The fact was, those people who found fault with the licence did so not because they cared about the amount; but they wanted to have their own way; they thought they could coerce us into legislating