

THE CARLETON SENTINEL



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"OUR QUEEN AND CONSTITUTION."

[By JAMES McLAUCHLAN.

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MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

The feeling in favor of the adoption of Municipal institutions appears to be on the increase. Time was when the advocates of local self-government were branded as ultra-radicals, or as something worse than that; but bitter experience has taught the people of these Colonies a salutary lesson.—Canada has for a number of years been reaping the advantages of Municipal institutions. To the absence of such a balance-wheel in the machinery of their Government, in former years, the late lamented Earl of Durham attributed much of the political feebleness and discontent he found among them. Their stand-still position, which in his day contrasted so vividly with the progressive activity of their neighbors across the line, he traced mainly to the same cause. Municipal institutions were subsequently adopted—Constitutional self-government in its greatest amplitude was established—and the whole people, refreshed and invigorated by this new element, sprung into a life of intelligent and almost unparalleled activity. The British Isles poured their thousands of adventurous emigrants upon her shores. The English, Irish and Scotch united with the descendants of the Gaul to people the country. The blood of the Anglo-Saxon and the Celt mingled together in the new country, and Canada now stands peerless in the muster-roll of Colonies. The doctrine of governing by families has been long exploded. The good old system of excluding the many from any share in the government of the country, and intrusting all political power into the hands of the few, is now known only as a relic of what was once called Toryism—at a later period Conservatism, and may now be aptly designated old-fogyism. There are some persons, both in Canada and among ourselves, who still cling to the few relics of the system which remain; but the system itself is dead. The thousands of well-conducted and well-filled schools, which overshadow the land—the intelligent public opinion which makes itself felt among all classes of the population—the almost colossal strides they are making in manufactures, in agriculture, and in commerce—their hundreds of miles of railways—the youthful energy which is developing itself in a thousand forms—the proud name their country bears even in the old countries, are proofs of the wonderful progress of our Canadian fellow-colonists—of the conservative elasticity of their government, and of the mighty influence which free institutions exercise upon a country's material welfare. Well might the Governor-General upon a late occasion, suiting his language to the temper of his audience, point to their municipal system, and find there the great secret of Canadian progress.

Nova Scotia also speaks out in favor of Municipalities. The voice may be a weak one at present but it will soon fill the land. We wish our neighbors across the bay every success, for assuredly it will be theirs.

In this Province—and it is of our own country we would particularly speak—we have not been altogether idle. The Municipal Act of the late Government was worthy of its origin. It looks like a joke. It was thrown down before the Legislature with a carelessness that was not becoming. "You are clamouring for self-government—there, take it if you want it; if not leave it alone." A sentiment like this might be characteristic of a Government of shreds and patches—the remnants of a worn-out system—but it fomented the tempest which scattered its authors abroad to the winds. It is scarcely a year since the indignation of the people tore this heterogeneous fabric to atoms—never to be joined together again. The municipal law went upon the Statute Book. It was hedged around with

absurdities and difficulties. One county, in spite of all the opposition that could be brought to bear against it, adopted it. Another made the attempt. But it was impossible that a large majority of the electors in the county could meet at the shire-town for the purpose of giving the two-third vote, without tossing of hats and a fight or two. This was—or was construed into—a riot. The Government of the day were glad of the excuse, and annulled the proceedings. York has adopted the law, and will soon, we are informed, be at work. Sanbury is moving and we have hopes of Queen's and some other counties. Freedom is contagious. Although we consider the present law very defective, and far from sufficient for its purpose, we believe that even its operation will be found an improvement upon the old system. It will teach the people to think for themselves, and give them to understand that they have a right to speak. It will enable them to exercise a direct control over all their county affairs. It will train them in the duty of selecting representatives to the Legislature. It will create a more healthy public opinion. It will infuse new energy into the electors. It will teach the people in the rural districts, and especially the young men, political knowledge. Its influences will soon be felt in every part of the Province. We have great hopes of the young men. We do not mean those who waste away their time in idleness and dissipation—in public houses and places of amusement; but we mean the honest and industrious—the stalwart and strong—the bone and sinew of the country. There is but little toleration of old fogysm among these.

With the overthrow of the late Government passed away the system of favoritism and extravagance.—The members of the present Executive are all men who have carved out their own fortunes—hewed their own path through life. They are the young blood of the country. They are pledged to resist to the death any and every attempt to restore the old system of exclusion, extravagance, and corruption. They will be sustained by all who are free from prejudice—so long as they pursue a straightforward course—we have full proof. We trust that they will be able, in a year or two, to devise and carry an effective municipal system. We shall return to this subject in an early number.—*St. John Courier.*

RAILROAD FACILITIES IN MAINE.—The Portland *State of Maine* says an arrangement has been made by the railways between Montreal and Bangor by which flour is taken from Montreal to the latter place for 60 cents per barrel. This will place flour into Bangor as cheaply as into New York. The Grand Trunk Line is to be opened as far as Brockville on the 15th of November next. Brockville is above the Long Sault Rapids, and will give one month later navigation than through the Erie Canal. It also says that Canadian flour has already become a favourite in that market. The railway is now in a condition to bring ten thousand barrels a week.

A MAN SWALLOWING HIS OWN HEAD.—The American Journal of Medical Science contains the following from the pen of D. J. Duegan, an American surgeon at Sebastopol. "A seaman, knocked down by a fragment of a mortar or shell, was picked up dead. The head was apparently swept from his shoulders, but there was no traces of hemorrhage; on disentangling his clothes, which were tightly jammed around the injured part, the head was found driven downward into the chest, carrying with it a great portion of blue shirt and red comforter. A small tuft of hair alone was visible at the bottom of a deep cavity. It was a regular intussusception."

Somebody, very wickedly says, two blooming ladies got caught in a shower of rain very recently and when they arrived home the rain had washed the very color out of their cheeks.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of Correspondents, unless editorially endorsed.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel.

SIR,—A press of business has prevented me for a length of time, from writing anything for the public to read; but though without leisure to write I have ever afforded myself some little time to read, in order to ascertain how matters stood in this and other places; and now having a few moments leisure, if you will allow me a small space in your columns, I will endeavour to notice briefly a very pithy communication over the signature of "ONE OF THEM." This epistle seems to be rather intended to enlighten the good people of York; and I would not be surprised to hear of their erecting a statue to that gentleman. If they have a sculptor among them capable of carving, they will likely surmount it with an Ass's head. But why that gent has thought proper to discard his former cognomen I am at a loss to know, unless it be because one of the speakers' on the 29th January, 1852, made an application of the word "Farmer" rather unfavourable to that person. In his communication, however, he seems to be as much astray as a certain Surveyor who started to run a north and south line for a man in the Parish of Brighton, and sent his employer forward to swamp for him; and the man being interested in having the line run as far East as possible, led the Surveyor a mile, or a mile and a half out of the way; and the gentleman got lost, compass and all, and so was beholden to the man to guide him to the river.

But to return to said production. In the first place I would ask that worthy, who paid the Bill incurred at the Parish election in Woodstock, in the year 1851—Woodstock or the County, although said Bill as charged to the County, was disallowed by the Grand Jury. I would further ask him if the Council have ever allowed a Coroner's bill for travelling fees, for a number of miles, when he refused to move from his own door, but people were obliged to violate the law, and remove the dead from the place where they were killed or found, in order to accommodate the said dignity. But supposing that no accounts had been allowed but such as were sanctioned by the Grand Jury, I would observe that it was in the Sheriff's power to warn just such a jury as would subserve his interest; and although I did not intend when commencing this article to animadvert upon the Sheriff's conduct, yet I am constrained to believe that he sometimes went quite far enough in this particular; for a neighbor of mine told me not long since (and he is a man on whose veracity I can depend) that he was once on a Jury in this County, and the Sheriff's account came before them, in which there were some charges which he considered extravagant, consequently he opposed them, and it was hinted to him at the time that he would not be called at the Court of Sessions again, which was verified to the letter; for ever after he was called away from his harvest at the Supreme Court, and allowed to remain at home at other seasons of the year when he could have much more conveniently attended. I do not pretend to deny but our Sheriff is possessed of as much integrity as men in general, but I say that he, like other men, is not fit to be entrusted with despotic power; and I would here remark, that the only safe and fair system of things is where every public functionary has a check rein upon him, by which he can be called upon directly to account for abusing the trust reposed in him. I do not wonder, however, that "One of Them" and his noble fraternity are quite chagrined since our last elections; and I think probably they feel somewhat like it was said anciently of the men who followed Absa-

lom—that is, "like a Bear robbed of her whelps;" for you must understand, Mr. Editor, that two of their most efficient sentinels were shot down on the 24th September last, which to them is probably as serious a loss as that of Sebastopol to the Russians, for whom one of said sentinels, although pretending to be a British subject, expressed a very warm sympathy. But I must close for the present, Mr. Editor, and I think it is probable that Mr. M. and Co., will abuse you for this as they did for my former communications. I would further observe that I have noticed from the first that that honorable body were fully bent on attacking you whether you drank up stream or down.

I have to request you to give insertion to the following advertisement of invaluable Medicines which I noticed not long since in a *Temperance Journal*, but as that paper has not so extensive a circulation as some others, I have thought it would be proper for you to transfer it to your columns together with the accompanying recommendation.—The medicines are as follows—viz:

14 cases Martell's, Henery's and Moun's Brandy.
10 cases claret, a good quality.
6 do. Old Tom.

Sign.—A drunkard lying stretched in the ditch at the door, and a party swearing and fighting inside.

Drunkard's lane—City of destruction.

July 12, 1854.

MISERABLE MAKER.

The above medicines when taken in sufficient quantities never fail to produce some or all of the following effects, viz:—want, desolation, sickness, insanity, alienation from nearest friends, deprivation of all moral and religious principles and to plunge the recipients into the lowest depths of degradation and misery, to bring them to an untimely end, or prepare them for crime, for which they will pay the penalty of the gallows or in the house of correction.

Carleton, Nov. 19, 1855.

A LIBERAL.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel.

SIR,—Having been, for the last fifteen months, a constant reader of your invaluable paper, and during which time I have heard of many of my neighbours enrolling their names on the already large list of the *Sentinel*, and who seem as anxious as myself to see it make its appearance on the day of publication, bringing us the latest news from the seat of war, as well as what occurs of any note in England, France, China, United States, Canada, Nova Scotia, &c.; with the doings and sayings of our own Province, which is, of course, the most important to us—having to do with our personal welfare. We are all aware, Mr. Editor, of the opposition with which you have to contend, and knowing well that your mild disposition will not allow you to make use of that vulgar "Billingsgate" slang which is thrown out by a weekly paper against you—the language of such as frequent grogeries or brothels, but which you resent with that all powerful arrow of truth, which, when fired, finds its way to the very heart of the transgressor, and makes him shake as if with the palsy. Continue to battle with that goodly weapon, for I know that your quiver is well stored with such, and in a short time it must make your enemies hide themselves from every upright and honest thinking man. I hope in a short time to see many—very many more rally to the support of a paper that represents the wants of the Farmers and Mechanics of this County, and battles against those who train every nerve to oppress us, and bring us back to their dominion. This, I am certain, will be the case if you continue the course you have commenced, for I know of no other paper in the Province that strives so much to exalt the hard working man and to humble the few tyrannizing braggadocios that infest our County. But the work goes on bravely. Continue your present course, and you will soon credit-