

Poetry.

THE POOR MAN'S GRAVE.

BY ELIZA COOK.

No sable pall, no waving plume,
No thousand torch-lights to illum—
No parting glance, no heavenly tear
Is seen to fall upon the bier.
There is not one of kindred clay
To watch the coffin on its way;
No mortal form, no human breast
Cares where the pauper's dust may rest.

But one deep mourner follows there,
Whose grief outlives the funeral prayer;
He does not sigh, he does not weep,
But will not leave the sodless heap.
'Tis he who was the poor man's mate—
And made him more content with fate—
The mongrel dog that shared his crust,
Is all that stands beside his dust.

He bends his listening ear as though
He thought to hear that voice below;
He pines to hear that voice so kind,
And wonders why he's left behind.
The sun goes down, the night is come,
He needs no food,—he needs no home,
But stretched along the dreamless bed,
With doleful howl calls back the dead.

The passing gaze may coldly dwell
On all that polished marble tell;
For temples built on church-yard earth,
Are claimed by riches more than worth.
But who would mark with undimmed eyes,
The mourning dog that starves and dies?
Who would not ask, who would not crave,
Such love and faith to guard his grave?

Provincial Legislature.

DEBATE ON MR. FISHER'S AMENDMENT TO THE ADDRESS.—Continued.

[Reported for the Sentinel.]

MONDAY, February 16.

MR. LAWRENCE'S SPEECH.—Continued.

Hear the advice of Earl Gray on the subject.—“Where the popular branch of the Legislature necessarily consists of a small number, the increased importance which attaches to individual votes greatly increases the danger of those abuses to which party government is always liable, as will readily be understood by those who have observed the effect produced in this country by a nearly equal division of parties. Even in the Assembly of Canada although a numerous body, compared to most colonial assemblies, it has been remarked that its great inferiority in number to the House of Commons has a decided and injurious effect upon its adaptation to the system of Government now in force in that colony.” This is the opinion of a distinguished leader of the Liberal party in the mother country. His hon. colleague asked where is the responsible man for the works that are now going on? He answered the government. For every step they have taken in reference to these works, they are responsible to the House and the country, and when the papers in reference thereto were submitted, it would be quite time to express an opinion as to whether they were entitled to the confidence of the House or not for what has been done. If the principle of Responsible Government was to be carried out in reference to the building of Railroads in this Province, the House had either to incorporate them with the Board of Works or to create a separate department with its chief on the floor of the house. If the principle had been violated in reference to this question, it was done by the late Government who created five offices to whom was to be intrusted the most important works, and a large amount of public funds, and without any direct responsibility to the House. As to which is the better course to pursue it is unnecessary to give an opinion at present, as the question no doubt will be brought under the consideration of members at a subsequent period.

If the present administration should be displaced who will assume the reins of Government?—There is no doubt but the members of the late Government wished to be restored to office, the House should judge of their qualification by the standard which they set up at the Short Session of 1854.—One of the charges which they brought against the Government at that time was the imperfect School Law. Did they improve it when they got into power? No. They re-enacted it; if they were justifiable for turning those in power out for its defects, and then turn round and re-enact it for a period of 2 years, they ought to be excluded from office, if they are dealt with as they dealt with others. The Hon. member from Carleton, Mr. Cornell, supported a vote of want of confidence in the late Government last winter, his testimony against them is important, for it does not result from a disinterested ambition in not receiving office at their hands, as he might have had a seat in the Executive with them. Condemnation from one of their own supporters entitled to credit might be treated especially under the circumstances which he stated.

The late Government took pains in endeavoring to appear before the County in the character of economists, but the statements which he had made must satisfy honorable members that they could lay no claim to it with all their parade of comparative statements they imitated the example of some men when they set up business, which had out the pious of their neighbors and then understood them in one or two leading articles and thus endeavored to get up the name of being an

Did it not ill-become the men who had been enjoying such lucrative situations to beggary in the poor men in the city of St. John their 4s. per day.

A great cry had been raised throughout the country in reference to Railway operations, especially those going forward in the vicinity of the city of St. John; the first after the foundation of the present government was, they will not go on with the Railway works at all, and when it was discovered that they were going forward with them, the next cry was there were not sufficient men at work and when it was found that cry would not take the next was that it was folly to employ any at all.—The determination appears to have been and it is kept to this day to find fault with the government whether right or wrong. His hon. Colleague stated that they had taken 4 rods of land through the thickest part of the city, he had frequently gone over the ground and had often thought it was an extraordinary fact, that a place could be found to bring the road to a deep water wharf in the city without interfering with property to the value of twenty shillings.

The fallacy of the complaint against the extravagant price paid for the work must have been clear to every unprejudiced mind, from the statements of the Hon. Provincial Secretary, yesterday. From them it appeared that on the four miles, only £5,000 had been expended, three of which had the iron laid and ready for ballasting. He thought it could be made to appear that by the judicious management of the party now in power, they had saved to the country an amount of money more than the sum spent. Take the cost of another mission to England, £300,—salary of five Commissioners, £1300,—and the premium gained to the province on the £40,000 of debentures, sold by Messrs. Baring, which, at three per cent., amounted to £1200, making a total of £2800.—Let them look farther; according to the letter of Mr. Fisher to the Barings, he expressed a wish that they would take our bonds to the extent of £200,000, at par, which that House would have done had the late Government remained in power, in accordance with the wish of its leader, and assuming that they sold for what had been realised from those already disposed of, the country would have lost the sum of £5,000; it therefore appeared that the Government had not only saved an amount equal to what had been expended in the vicinity of the city of St. John, but several thousand pound beside.

Let the House look at the late Government scheme. First a line from the Bend to Shediac, after its completion a line from St. John to Shediac, and during its construction £50,000 was to be expended on a line from Fredericton to Woodstock, and £50,000 from Shediac to the Bend.—After the line from St. John to Shediac was finished, then a line was to be built from St. John to the States, and two above extensions would be going forward at the same time.

Hon. Members must be thought have been astonished at the exclamation made by the member from York, the ex-Attorney General. “£50,000, three years Bye Road appropriations, wasted;”—that observation was calculated to great injustice both to the Government and to his colleague who was in it. Did he (Mr. F.) forget that he was the framer of a scheme of Railway which contemplated an expenditure, yea, an actual waste, on two extensions, of six year bye road appropriations. The expenditures of the present government had been for the completion of the line from Bend to Shediac, for which the late government paid some £80,000 to Messrs. Jackson & Co., and required to be completed at once, not only to save what was done from going to ruin, also to make it yield a return for the investment made with as little delay as possible.

Those extensions showed the good feeling of the late government, and they wished these portions of the province might get them if they could. Unfortunately for the opposition the charge of the wasting of the £50,000 was in keeping with all their other charges, for it appeared that only £40,000 had been drawn from Baring & Co., and £15,000 of that was lying to the credit of the Province in the Bank. As for any interference with the Bye road appropriations there was no fear; for the Law makes express provision for providing funds for carrying on the work. It was a remarkable fact that the most important line to this Province had been overlooked, viz: one to connect Canada. Over thirty years ago when the canals of that country were opened, steps were taken to secure a trade with her by the means of a canal between the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf. That project had not been carried out. Legislation from time to time had been in that direction. The survey of Major Robinson on the Northern section of the Province, the mission of Messrs. Chandler, Hinks, and Howe, had for its object the prosecution of the work by the valley of the St. John.—This he regarded as one of the most important lines that could be undertaken, for it would give us a connection with a people numbering two millions of inhabitants, in a country which may be said to be only in its infancy. For a share in its trade New York years ago built her costly canals, and has now three Railroads from her waters to the lakes. Massachusetts has for years been a rival with her for a share of that trade; while a third competition has appeared in the construction of the Portland Line built by the State of Maine.—Civilization, it is said, moves in a westward direction, but from the action of the adjoining States the Railway movement is eastward. The importance to New Brunswick of a connection with Canada would be found invaluable, not only in a provincial point of view, but also national. Below the city of Quebec there are upwards of 100,000 inhabitants entirely shut out from a participation of any benefit in the existing lines in Canada and to them New Brunswick would be a market. As a national highway, its importance is not fully realized, whether in war or in peace. Had England a Railway in the Crimea during the late war, how many valuable lives—how much suffering—and

what costly treasure would have been saved to that country.

In the prosecution of that work the mother country had an interest almost equal to our own; and if ever there was a time when its importance might with advantage be pressed upon the Government of Great Britain it is now, when Lord Palmerston is at the head of head of affairs. To our position he is no stranger, for when the Ashburton Treaty was before the House of Commons he condemned it, and said “a surrender had been made of that which not only clearly belonged to us but of that which it was important for us to retain.”

While the late Attorney General was in England he endeavored to obtain guarantees for the payment of our bonds, but was unsuccessful; and when he (Mr. L.) heard it stated on the floor of the house that the Colonial Secretary, at the request of the Postmaster General of England had sent a despatch to the Government of this Province asking for the payment of Postage due the British Post Office, could he not discover in it the cause of the refusal of the head of the Colonial department to consent to the endorsement of our bonds. Our credit is our capital, and we cannot too carefully guard it. We see clearly in what has occurred not only a necessity for the office of Postmaster General, but also the necessity that it should not have remained vacant any longer.

The late Attorney General could not understand upon what ground the appointment of Mr. Montgomery to the office of Surveyor General was made unless upon the ground of his supporting the prerogative. It is highly probable had he taken the stand the late Government did on that question, he could not have received the appointment. That was not the Prerogative referred to, it was to the exercise of it on a previous occasion, by the appointment of Mr. Reed to the office of Provincial Secretary. That he believed was an improper appointment, and one far from being in accordance with the wishes of the people. Was it not a little remarkable that while Mr. Fisher censured in 1854 Messrs. Wilnot and Gray for going into the Government in 1851 because of an action of that Executive in reference to the question of Judges nearly two years previous, that he should have gone into office as an Executive Councillor, in 1848, with a body of men who had been guilty of greater injustice to the rights of the people by the appointment of a comparative stranger to one of the most important offices in the country.

In reference to the question of Emigration he would say that to give away our lands would not only be an act of injustice to the Company engaged in the construction of the St. Andrews Line of Railway, but it also would be a violation of a condition in the arrangement with the house of Baring's & Co., for they look upon our lands as our capital. When the documents bearing on that subject are before the House he would express his views on the subject. He would ask the House what has the late Government done for the country during the period they were in office? when called upon to enunciate their policy did they lay down any principles by which they were going to be guided? their leader on the occasion of introducing the Election Law said that the “policy of the Government was to be progressive, destructive of that which was evil, and conservative of that which was good.” How anxious they were to gain the support of all, for there is not a word in that to which Whig and Tory, Radical and Conservative would not subscribe. It ought to be remembered that this celebrated declaration was made just after the members of the late Government had received their first quarter's salary, and they had found that there was no way in which they could easily earn from £700 to a £1000 per annum, and therefore they were very anxious to live on good terms with all, and do nothing to give offence or to raise up an opposition against them.

If their election law is taken as a specimen of their Legislation, it certainly was a strong evidence of incompetency to prepare such a measure as the country required. He regarded it as a failure in almost every particular. It promises to secure to the country a simple Registry—a simple Franchise and the right of the suffrage to intelligence as well as property.

As far as the city of St. John is concerned, there were many who heretofore have exercised the right of the franchise, who under the working of the new law are denied it; and what is more, while under the old law the qualification was citizenship and the possession of personal property to the value of £25, under the new they are not only to have personal property but also to be assessed on it.—The member from York smiled,—to him it might be a matter of little importance; but to them it was otherwise, for it imposed a tax of about 5s. in addition to the city poll tax of 15s.—There are many intelligent men who are not possessed of any real estate, who neither have £100 personal property or annual income to that amount.

He maintained that the graduates of our workshops, our Foundries and ship yards, ought to be enfranchised also, for in them is learned that practical intelligence which is the wealth of the country. For universal suffrage he was no advocate; he agreed with a leading member of the late government now on the bench that “The true basis of the elective franchise, the true constitutional principle, was that every man who paid a tax has a right to have a voice in the affairs of that country which exercises the right of taxing him.”

There was one section which ought to have been in the Bill, depriving Assessors and Revisors of the right to become candidates for a seat in the Legislature; no matter what their character or standing may be, they should not be allowed to have anything to do with the preparation of Registry of Voters in the Municipalities of the Province.—Men were disqualified from holding seats if they could in any way be identified with any contract, or if they were in the receipt of any pay from those corporations; how much more important it was

that a guard should be thrown around the dearest rights of the people! There was another important defect; no provision was made in the new Election Law if there should be a tie vote. It was a matter of the first importance that every place should have some one to represent it, especially at the opening of the Session when a great question like the one then under discussion, was before the House when a vote might decide the question one way or the other. In the Municipal Corporation Act, a provision is made for a contingency of that kind,—sometimes by the casting vote of the presiding officers, sometimes by holding the Election over again. This is a matter which required attention. He put it to the house if it was not their imperative duty to pause before they turned out a government without seeing their measures—and condemn them upon the idle rumors which were floating around—to make way for one whose measures they had before them and which he thought every man must pronounce defective. He asked for the Government a trial; to it they were justly entitled. They ought to have an opportunity to submit their reports to the House before a verdict was given against them; and he believed that when all the documents were before them, the injustice of the cry raised against the Government would be clear to every man who was not biased by strong party feelings.

Mr. GILMOUR commenced by observing that large places make large men, and as the Hon. member Mr. Lawrence came from St. John, a large place, he had made a large speech, but he Mr. Gilmour, coming from a small place, must be content with making a small speech, but the large speech of the Hon. Gentleman, had so completely demolished the liberal party and all their hopes, that he had hardly any heart left to try to speak, and he did not know that he could better describe his feelings, and the feelings of his political friends in the House than by repeating a verse written by a poor fellow who had been jilted by his lady-love.

Gone, gone forever are the hopes
In which so long I've trusted,
For Saily Ann has taken slope
And I'm done up and busted.

He (Mr. G.) approved of the mode of trying the strength of the Government by a direct resolution of want of confidence, as set forth in the amendment. It was the fairest way, and much preferable to any attempt to defeat a Government measure. A Government in which he had no confidence might introduce a good measure, and any endeavor on the part of the opposition to defeat every such measure must hinder the public business.—The Government, said Mr. G., is in the hands of the same party who were turned out by such an overwhelming majority in 1854. Their successors, the Liberals, had sustained themselves through two long Sessions, defeated every resolution of want of confidence, and carried all their measures triumphantly; and the close of the last Winter's Session left them in full power. He would affirm, that within those walls, and by that House alone, could any Government be constitutionally turned out of office, so that the Liberal Government was defeated and the present Government introduced by a process unknown to the Constitution, and unprecedented in the history of Colonial Legislation. In fact the members of the present Government had not come in by the door, but had come up in some other way, and were therefore not fairly and honourably in power in accordance with the principles of Responsible Government. For these reasons, he (Mr. G.) was prepared to turn them out at once, without reference either to their past doings, or their proposed measures. He was satisfied from what he had seen and heard, that they did not deserve the Confidence of the House or the Country. Their Railway doings had been reviewed and condemned, and he well remembered how the same men had opposed the Railway measures of the late Government as ruinous to the Province. Yet no sooner were they installed into office, than they suddenly changed their tune, and adopted that very scheme. He, Mr. G. had heard much of their doings on the Marsh near Saint John, but as he had not seen it he would read a description from a printed paper. [Here Mr. G. read a report from a newspaper, setting forth that they had been blasting the Marsh mud with gunpowder, laying sleepers of all shapes and sizes in the ice and frozen ground, that the thaws had melted away the ice and mud, and that instead of the sleepers supporting the rails, the rails actually held up the sleepers.]—He, Mr. G., did not believe in this mode of building Railways.

Then the railway was to have been used for the purpose of carrying the workmen to and from their labours during the present winter, but the winter would pass away before the road could be used at all. Then there was the Emigration Scheme which in their wisdom they had matured and published, and sure he was that a Government who could plan and publish a scheme so unsuitable could not possess the Confidence of the Country. First there was a sum of £12 10s. to be paid down, then five acres to be cleared which would cost £25 more, then a large house to be built, and all to be done in one year or the whole to be forfeited. The man who was able to fulfil these conditions must be well to do, and would not go into the wilderness at all, besides the practice was to chop down the trees one season, and clear up the land the next. There was certainly a great want of people, and a well devised Emigration Scheme, at this time, was of vast importance; but this Scheme looked like the work of Tinkers and Tailors, totally ignorant of the usual process of clearing and settling the wilderness lands. There was moreover abundance of evidence to prove beyond a doubt, that the members of the Government had no confidence in one another. The head of the Board of Works publicly disapproved of the doings of his colleagues in regard to Railways, and prepared a Scheme of his own, an important negotiation had been carried on between certain members of the Government and Mr. Hatheway, of which the Registrar and Solicitor Generals declared