

fresh and imbued with a pure and generous desire for Liberty, for progression, and for equal rights.

I respect highly Major Tupper, nor would I cross his path on any account. I have not heard his declaration of principles, and therefore cannot speak as to his alleged claims on the electors of this County for their votes; but I think that nothing short of the most liberal and enlightened principles will suit the people, and I know, as do the electors, that such principles and views have ever been advocated by Mr. Connell. To the truth of this assertion your experience and remembrance responds. The Journals of the Assembly bear testimony to this; and no man can successfully contradict this. Take for instance his efforts, his fervent efforts to introduce Municipal Corporations; the success which attended those efforts; their introduction into this County and their satisfactory working here.

Mr. Connell is likewise for opening up the country by means of railroads—practical judicious lines, not for fooling away the money, [a voice, "Building them on ice,"] but with proper view to economy, and with good management.

False assertions are industriously spread throughout the County about Mr. Connell, but he shakes them off as does the lion dew drops from his mane. They do not injure him in the estimation of good men. I have every confidence in him, and cheerfully recommend him to you, because he is a tried and faithful servant; indeed, as many persons have said to me, it is all nonsense talking about putting Mr. Connell out, we can't do without him.

MR. BENNETT.

Gentlemen; I have three times appeared before you to advocate the return of Mr. Connell, and I never did so more freely than on the present occasion; and never have I felt stronger confidence in that gentleman than now.

For 11 years Mr. Connell has faithfully served us in the Legislature—through evil report and good report, exerting all his energies for our welfare; and I am sure we do not feel at all disposed to desert him now. No! You and I are fellow sufferers from bad legislation; we know Mr. Connell's efforts have ever been directed to remedy those evils; to give us self government; the direction of our own affairs; the expending of our own money. I will not detain you as there are a number of gentlemen to speak; only hoping, in conclusion, that you will not forget Mr. C.'s claims upon your support.

MR. CONNELL.

Gentlemen, Electors of Carleton: I have not had time to go through the County and visit you personally; and perhaps it is just as satisfactory, as it shows that I have not attempted to convince you as to what course you should adopt or how vote at the coming elections.

I am here before you to be judged by my past conduct, and by the course which I have pursued in the Legislature as your representative; with that course of action you are sufficiently acquainted to be able to form an unbiassed opinion, as to whether I deserve a resumé of that confidence which you have, for such a number of years, reposed in me—a confidence, gentlemen, which I shall never cease to remember with pride.

You, gentlemen, have long known me. It has been truly observed that I was cradled almost within sight of where I now stand. Here I was born; here I have lived; here I expect to die;—and while I claim this as my native country, gentlemen, I am proud of that country. You have ever testified your confidence in me; I have implicit confidence in you. In you—the Farmers and Mechanics of Carleton—I rely. Our interests are the same.—Your prosperity is my prosperity; your advantage my advantage. Whatever benefits me, benefits every man who owns an acre of land in the country, or who earns his living therein; and when I wish to see this Province advance in the same ratio as do other countries; when I adopt as my motto, "To go ahead, and not stand still;" and when I raise my voice, or give my influence to promote public improvements,—I do that which benefits not myself alone, but every one of you.

It were more pleasant for me to attend to my own private business—as it would be more profitable—than to spend so much of my time attending to public affairs; but feeling, as I do, a deep interest in the welfare of the country, I have yielded to the wishes of the constituents of Carleton; and have ever, as a Legislator, so far as possible, endeavoured to do that which was best calculated to advance the interests of that constituency and Country.

I stand here, gentlemen, to day, as a member of the Liberal party in this Province; and am prepared for an investigation of my conduct, and to give the reasons which have induced me to vote as I have during the late Session. I told you last Spring, when we met at this place, what course I should pursue, if I was returned. I believe there was no doubt as to my intentions. I think you understood me perfectly well; and I think you cannot but acknowledge that I have done what I then promised. The first question which came before the House last Winter, was a motion of want of confidence in the Government. Now, don't mis-understand me at all; it was simply and only a Resolution expressing want of confidence in the Executive advisers of His Excellency. The discussion occupied ten days—so that the country, of course, a considerable sum; but I do not think, as some seem to, that it was money thrown away. The debates have been read far and near throughout the Province—enlightening the people on the important questions involved, giving them political information, and impressing upon them their duty in connection with Provincial Legislation.

The first measure proposed by the Government, was a Bill to revive the old Election Law, and to repeal the new one, and disfranchise those of you, who, at this Election, will, under that law, have opportunity for the first time to vote. This

Fisher Law, so called, contains many important provisions, which—believing them in accordance with your wishes, and calculated to render more pure and satisfactory the system of Elections,—I have advocated. The most important of these are ballot and registration.

The reason stated by the Attorney General in bringing in his Bill was that the Law had not been carried out in scarce any of the Counties, and that, consequently, no election could be held; affirming that both York and Carleton were disfranchised. In my opinion, the failure of the various Counties to carry out the law is attributable to the Government itself, the members of which had always opposed the bill. Mr. Montgomery declared that he would rather have the old freehold qualification; Mr. Wilmot had been utterly hostile to the Ballot system (although since the St. John election he has, it would seem, changed his views); and, enquiry having been made by letter at the Secretary's office, with reference to the printed Election Bill, one of the clerks in that office replied, that, if the Government intended to carry out the law, copies would be furnished. All these facts go to convince me that, not only were the Government derelict in their duty,—not only did they not, as they should, see that the law in its provisions was carried out,—but they threw obstacles in the way, and were anxious that it should not become operative. In fact, the Tories evidently don't like the liberal provisions of the law, and want to go back to the old system. However, the Bill was brought in, and Mr. Hatheway moved an amendment which secured to five Counties the right to hold elections under the new Law; under that you will now record your vote, independently of all improper influences. Reference was made by Mr. Tupper the other day, at a political meeting in Lower Woodstock, to Ledger influences, as having great weight in elections; and he stated that he had no such influence to back him. I have striven for the ballot in order to prevent any outside pressure being brought to bear, and I can say that I have never coerced a man into voting for me; neither have I ever, because a man did not vote for me, retaliate by putting him to trouble. If there is a man in this assembly who has ever known me to do so, I wish him to come forward and state it.

The Railway question is the next to which I shall refer. I have always been an advocate for Railways, to a judicious extent; but I know very well that evil as well as good must follow their introduction. A vast expense is necessary; and, while building, and for a long time after they are built, the pressure of their support will be seriously felt; but the road will be here, and the country will be here, and ultimately the energy and industry of the people will rise superior to these pecuniary difficulties, and the country must prosper. The objections which the Opposition raised to the Government on the Railway operations were, that they had proceeded contrary to law,—not having appointed commissioners, but rather entrusting the management of the work to an irresponsible engineer; that they had pursued a system of favoritism, giving out the work in small jobs,—thereby, up to the 1st of February, involving an expenditure of some £33,000 on the Pond and Shediac Road, which a responsible party had offered to complete the whole for £25,000; thereby, up to the date mentioned, having squandered £8,000, and the work, as he had been credibly informed, then not much more than half done. [Here Mr. Connell read a copy of Tender from Mr. Otis Small, as above.]

That they had, in order to further some private views, and have the cars running on a certain day in March at St. John, squandered the public funds, building on snow and ice and mud—where, since the thaw, the rails were supporting the sleepers, instead of the sleepers supporting the rails.

In order to make myself acquainted with the nature of the road, I visited St. John, passed over and carefully examined the work; and from my own knowledge, and the testimony of competent judges, came to the conclusion that the charges against the Government respecting it, were true.

Again, the Government had no settled policy; and the difference of opinion which they expressed on the subject of Railroads, proved it unsafe to trust them with those works. [Here Mr. C. read from published reports, Mr. Macpherson's statement, that he could not justify the Railway operations at St. John, but had suggested a scheme for a road by the Valley of the St. John, to cross the River above Fredericton, &c.] I cannot understand how the hon. gentleman is going to include Woodstock in his proposed route, when it traverses the western side of the River. [Mr. C. here read from a speech of Mr. Montgomery, in which that gentleman characterized a road by the St. John as absurd, &c.] I think this will show you most conclusively that no confidence can be put in any of their schemes.

There is one thing certain, the chief object of the leaders of the Government, is to build the Shediac line to St. John, and connect, by steamers with Prince Edward's Island, thus opening up to it at Colony a market for its oats, potatoes, and other produce, and having—what effect upon this, Carleton County? Why, excluding us altogether, for what chance can our farmers—having no such sure and speedy means of communication—have to compete with those who are provided with so many facilities to get their produce to market. The result of such a policy will be ruinous to this section of the country. Our young men will be forced to seek a home and field for their industry elsewhere, and we will be sacrificed.

In order to be able to afford you full information with reference to Railroad expenditure, I received that copies of all contracts and accounts be furnished and laid before the House. After great delay we got the contracts, but the accounts were never given; and Mr. Wilmot, a few days since, in St. John, stated that he did not know how the money on the Shediac road had been expended.

Gentlemen, I put it to you, whether, with a knowledge of the above facts, I could, consistently with a proper regard for the interests of the Country—yours and my own—express or entertain confidence in the Government.

I shall now refer to the poor school masters, about whom so much has been said—a class of persons for whom I feel and do as much as some others. It has been said by some that the Opposition are to be blamed for keeping them out of their pay so long; but by a letter which I hold in my hand, I find that the warrants were all duly issued and are lying at the Secretary's office waiting for that gentleman's signature, he being absent, attending to his election. So that it is the fault of the Government, not the Opposition, that the school-masters have not been paid.

It was expected that the Government would have brought down a School Bill, but instead of that they only attempted to revive the old; although leading members of the Opposition stated that if they would bring down a good measure they would assist to pass it.

The Government did bring in a new College Bill, but refused to allow it to be printed in the journals—the only reason being, I conceive, because it had been prepared by Judge Wilmot, and they did not wish thus to acknowledge that they had not ability sufficient among themselves to prepare one. As to this new College Bill, I have not made up my mind as to whether it is such an one as meets the wants and feelings of the country. The College question is one in which, as you are aware, I have always taken a lively interest. I felt that it was a grievous wrong, the taking of some £3,000 yearly of the public funds to support that institution, and educate a few boys round Fredericton, and I determined not to rest until some remedy was applied to the evil; and, after much fighting, and excitement, and opposition, I finally succeeded in getting a bill passed which at least instituted the commencement of a reform in that matter.

The Emigration Scheme of the late Government has been universally condemned; still without submitting it to the House for their approval or disapproval, they have sent M. H. Perley home with £500 from the Provincial chest to obtain emigration under that scheme.

This Mr. Perley holds the office of Emigration Agent at St. John, but resides "all over," and is seldom to be found by those poor fellows who need his services. But he is sent home and where does he go? why to London! Is that the place to go to obtain the class of emigrants we need?—perhaps it is, but I think not—but then he goes and opens an office and sends out his circulars—suppressing on his own authority a certain portion of the scheme. But to shew you how great an insult the Government have offered this country by sending home such a man, I will read you an extract from a letter of his dated a few years back; [here Mr. C. read from Mr. Perley's annual report dated Jan'y. '56, in which he declared there was no hopes for emigrants in New Brunswick, and that the emigration was rather from her shores.] This was when the Liberals were in power, and he did not hesitate to utter falsehoods to injure them; but now when his friends the Tories are in he entertains quite a different opinion.

I myself am of opinion that land should be given freely to actual settlers with as few restrictions as possible, and every inducement offered to emigrants of a proper class.

Here Mr. C. went into a consideration of the charge against the Opposition that they refused going into supply,—stating that the Government never sought to do so and that if they had a majority of the Opposition would have assisted them provided a dissolution would follow.

A bill was moved by a member of the Opposition excluding all office holders, contractors, &c., under Government from holding seats in the Legislature; this measure passed the House, but unfortunately did not suit the Government, and they managed to throw it overboard in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Connell here went into an exposition of the conduct of the Government with reference to the Sullivan Creek bridge, exposing the system of partiality then pursued by them there; denying the contract to Mr. Kilburn because he had opposed them at the last election. [Here Mr. Connell read a letter from Mr. Kilburn, stating that the Government required, if he (Mr. K.) took the contract, that he should pay £250 to an Engineer, while the present contractor was allowed to have it and do his own Engineering.]

There are some people who are very loyal when it suits their purpose, and they are endeavouring to make capital against the Opposition, because they did not go up to the Council Chamber at the prorogation of the House. The fact was, they were determined to be set right before the country, and they were desirous of hearing Mr. McMonagle's speech—a gentleman who had been with the Government, but who had become disgusted with them; the Government determined to prevent a free expression of opinion, and put up two men to talk against time. We could not get a hearing; so we resolved to wait, and did so. We heard Mr. McMonagle's speech. You have read it; it has gone through the country, and has had a happy effect.

The Tories talk about loyalty; but who attended a meeting, and moved a Resolution, having for its object, annexation to the United States, but Mr. Gray? Who burned the Parliament Buildings in Canada, with all the Provincial archives, and stoned, and pelted with rotten eggs the Governor General? The Tories. Who memorialized those parties for that gross outrage? The Tories of this Province—John C. Allen being present, and taking part. Who rallied around the Governor General, and supported him under these trying circumstances? The Liberals. Lord Elgin stated to Judge Wilmot that those men who had been represented to him, when he first came to the Province, as rebels, were the first to render him assistance and cheer in the hour of need; and the Lib-

eral Government has evinced its appreciation of that conduct by elevating some of the first of those Liberals to offices of trust, honor and emolument—conferring on Mr. Lafontaine the honor of knighthood, and making him Chief Justice of Lower Canada, and appointing Mr. Hincks Governor of the Windward Islands. Such are the loyal Tories! Such the disloyal Liberals!

There is one subject which has been to me a matter of much serious thought, and on which I should like to have your opinion,—that is, with reference to the improvement of the navigation of the river. I believe that the expenditure in improving the tow-paths has been judicious, and some little benefit has resulted from the works on the river. Mr. Perley and I suggested to the Government that the money proposed to be expended on the river the coming year, be laid out on the road on the western side of the river, and in constructing a bridge at Tobique.

[Here Mr. Connell referred to late events in the Parliament of England—very lucidly explaining the position of parties there, and shewing how the Liberals there and here corresponded, and how the course pursued by them was parallel; again reiterating the statement that the non-granting of the supplies was solely to be charged upon the Government.]

Gentlemen, I have now taken a survey of the various matters and things connected with the late dissolution; and I wish you to consider them well, and judge whether, under all these circumstances, Mr. Perley and myself would have been justified in supporting the present Government. To my mind we would not; to my mind had we done so, we should have justly forfeited your confidence and esteem. We knew a dissolution would follow, we knew that the people would be appealed to; but why should we fear that appeal—having acted as our conscience, and as the wishes of a large majority of our constituents told us was right—why, I say, should we fear to come back to that constituents, and give an account of our stewardship?

Gentlemen, when I can't pursue that course which I conscientiously believe to be best calculated to promote the welfare of this County, I shall resign my seat.

Reference has been made to office-seekers. I don't want office; if I did I might have had office. I have never, except my pay as member, received one penny from the public funds. Office is no object to me, and nothing but a sense of duty would induce me to accept one.

But, gentlemen, I have a large interest at stake in this County. I, as well as you, am interested in good legislation; and, gentlemen, upon your votes now, in a measure, depends whether our country shall any longer suffer under bad legislation, or whether a new and better order of things shall be instituted.

There is a great principle at stake. On the one side is Toryism, on the other Liberalism. You have to choose between them. A great question is asked, SHALL THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT BE SUSTAINED? Don't forget that you are to answer that question. There are two parties here, as all over the Province—no matter by what name they call themselves; and I advise every man to vote who is entitled to vote,—and here remember that hundreds of you, through the labours of the Liberals, are now entitled to vote for the first time. Don't any of you stay away from the polls. Don't, as you may have done on previous occasions, think it is not necessary. It is necessary. Come to the polls on Saturday; vote for the Liberal ticket; and let the Province know that not only is Carleton a Liberal County, but let them know so by an overwhelming and triumphant majority.

Thanking you for your patient hearing; for your confidence hitherto reposed in me,—I will only say, that I have an abiding confidence that on Saturday next, you will prove that I have not forfeited that confidence.

MR. TUPPER'S SPEECH.

[We take a report of Mr. Tupper's speech from the Journal—not doubting but that it will prove as satisfactory to that gentleman and his friends as if we reported it ourselves.]

In the remarks which he had to make upon the proceedings of the late session he wished to avoid personalities, and to treat our late representatives with all proper respect.

In discussing the questions now before the country he would for a starting point go back to the dissolution in 1855. The Governor pressed upon his Executive Council the propriety of an appeal to the people upon the Prohibitory law. The law was imperative; and it would have caused the revenue a yearly loss of £30,000 or £40,000, at a time when great public works were about to be undertaken,—rendering the preservation of the Provincial credit of vital importance. The council should have advised the dissolution; had they done so they would in all probability have now been in power. When the Assembly met after the Elections the test vote was 24 to 16, and the vote on the repeal of the Prohibitory Law 38 to 2.

When the late session opened, a motion of Want of Confidence in the Government was brought up, and eight days were occupied in its discussion. It happened to be in Fredericton on business, and went into the House occasionally and listened to the debates for a few minutes. He found that they were very similar to those which had taken place almost annually for some years past, and that he might as well go home and read over again his files of the debates of former sessions. The only interest which the country had in the debate was that they had to pay the bills, £150 a day. The House divided twenty-one to twenty; and a dissolution was inevitable. As nine of the Counties had not made up the Registers required by the Fisher Act, it was found necessary for those Counties to receive for the emergency the old Election Law. That law revived, and a general election possible, the House