

Correspondence.

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

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

Mr. Edron.—As publicly announced in the bills printed at your office, the Concert of the Misses Babin, of Edmondston, came off last Wednesday evening. The audience—small, yet quite select—were delightfully entertained, judging from the rapturous applause and frequent *encores* elicited by the pretty songs, selected for the occasion. On Thursday evening, at the particular request of the previous evening's audience, the young ladies gave us another entertainment, when they were received by a full house, with similar plaudits of satisfaction. Their singing has a melodeon accompaniment; their voices are sweet, powerful and harmonious. They have given musical soirees at Edmondston and Fort Kent, Me., during the month, and have been well received.

They contemplate visiting Woodstock during the coming winter, where their abilities as native singers will doubtless meet a deserving patronage.

Yours, truly,

MUSIC.

Grand Falls, Nov. 10th, 1856.

The Carleton Sentinel.

WOODSTOCK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1856.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

A few weeks since we made a hurried visit to a portion of the Counties of King's and Queen's, and were pleased to find the friends of Liberalism in that direction, heartful and hopeful in prospect of a better time coming when they may wipe off the blot of disgrace which rests upon them since the last election. Reaction! Reaction! is seen, is met everywhere.

In Queen's County we found a strong feeling among some good friends, in view of the refusal of that County, to adopt Municipal Corporations; and it is, it must be a matter of regret, of shame to themselves, as it is a matter of surprise to others, that that old and excellent County should declare, as they have done by their votes, that they are unfit or unwilling to govern themselves. We have been requested by some esteemed subscribers in Queen's to write an article on the subject; and to the request we most readily accede, anxious as we are to use our weak abilities to spread the benefits of an institution which has proved mighty for good wherever it has been introduced.

We have not at hand any reference from which we can arrive at correct data as to the origin and growth of Municipalities in England; memory, however, justifies us in stating that their origin is of very remote date, and that they are essentially British in their spirit, and that just in proportion as that country has advanced in the cause of liberty, of enlightenment, these institutions have been established and fostered, "growing with her growth, and strengthening with her strength."

About '42, under the administration of the late Lord Sydenham, Municipal Corporations were, we believe, first introduced into Canada West; and we do not fear contradiction when we state that to their fortunate introduction and successful operation that magnificent country owes, in no small measure, her astonishing progress in the last ten years; and in Canada East their benign and healthful influence is being felt, and that portion of the country is advancing under their influence. It is true that in Nova Scotia these institutions have not as yet met with favour at the hands of the people. We are only surprised at it, we cannot understand it.

In New Brunswick we have them, but to a limited extent. We must confess we are a slow people in political progress, and it is difficult to make the bluenose mind comprehend that they may and ought to govern themselves: that they want a feeling of self-dependence; and that they may assume an approach at least to nationality, and by their own exertions, give their country a name among other countries. Thus for long, long years they paid their devotions at the shrine of Toryism; for long years they submitted their necks to the tyrant's foot; and, apparently in blissful ignorance of any brighter, better destiny, they made bricks without straw for the task masters of family compaction;—not only so, but when some independent, enlightened spirits threw off their trammels, stood forth and proclaimed to the people their rights, their evident destiny—proclaimed to them that they had a right to govern themselves by themselves, their family compaction declared such to be rebels and fools; and all the people answered rebels

and fools; but a good time came. Agitation—truthful, honest agitation—produced its legitimate results, and the people of New Brunswick embraced the noble sentiment of Lord Metcalfe—"Cherish Responsible Government and British connection;" and, embracing Responsible Government, they found that they adopted a principle which at once elevated them in their own estimation—in that of the world, and which drew still closer the ties which bound them to the Fatherland. A large advance was now made in the right direction; the people learned a lesson, but, as the result has and will shew, the lesson was but a primary one.—Learning their own ability to direct the general government of the country—remedying the abuses which had existed therein, the next question was, how shall we remove or remedy the abuses which still exist and flourish under the present system of local government? The answer—the ready answer—was, govern your own affairs; the same system which works well in general must work well locally—in the Counties as well as the Province. Take from the hands of an irresponsible or careless, and in too many cases an injurious, magistracy, the reins of power, assume them yourselves; or at all events, if you let them hold the reins, "Tell them the way to go." The consequence was, a pressure of public opinion, which compelled the government in '51 to prepare an act for the establishment of Municipalities; but the government of that day, being but an interloper, a parasite, which drew from the hale trunk of Responsible Government, its nourishment, without imparting health, or grace, or beauty—that government seemed to be resolved, that while compelled to frame a Municipal Act, they would do it in such a way as to disgust the people with Municipalities, and thus indirectly strike a blow at all the liberal institutions of the Province: at once claim credit for doing the will of the sovereign people, and at the same time inflict a wound upon the liberty, the progressive liberty, of the same people. Thus they enacted that upon two thirds of the rate-payers upon property, asking for the establishment of Municipalities in any County, it should be granted. In consequence every County that tried failed in getting it, with the exception of this (Carleton) County. Here, however, notwithstanding the rampant opposition brought to bear against it; notwithstanding all the venerable relics of Toryism were, like "Grandfather Smallweed," shook up for the occasion; notwithstanding bugbears of taxation, and ghosts of starvation were brought out to frighten the people away from it; still the people, wide awake, would have it—and got it. How does it work now? How is it liked? Let us hear the Municipal Council, after the system had been in operation some three years.

Upon the accession of the late government this Municipality presented an Address to Hon. C. Fisher, from which we take the following:

"The principle of self-government we well know how to appreciate—the management of their local affairs having been conferred on the people of this County by their acceptance of the Act to establish Municipal Authorities."

And again:

"Being fully satisfied, from the workings of our own Municipality that the people may be safely entrusted with the entire management and control of their own County affairs, and that they should have such power as would effectually develop those principles."

On the Hustings, at the late election, Chas. Perley, Esq.—a gentleman who has doubtless closely watched the workings of this system, who pays a heavy tax, and whose interests are doubtless as much affected as those of any other man in the County,—stated that he had opposed the introduction of the Municipal Act in this County; that he had done so conscientiously; "but that now his views were entirely changed. That then he was mistaken; and he was satisfied, entirely satisfied, with the working of the system, and convinced of its applicability to this and every County." Such was, such is Mr. P.'s opinion; and we believe, that if to-day the people of Carleton were appealed to, they would by a large majority declare their abiding and confiding faith in the advantages of this institution. Meantime, since the acceptance of the system in this County, the law has been changed. When the Fisher Government came into power, one of their earliest acts was to remove the obnoxious feature of the Municipal Bill, and make its provision more broad and liberal; the two-third vote is done away, and now a majority rule. Since then, York has received incorporation, and the people are well satisfied. Sunbury, too, has spoken out. Her election for Councillors takes place in December next; and she falls into line, and moves onward in the march of progress.

Why is it that every County in the Province has not claimed this system? Is it because the opinion is entertained that the Executive for the time being know the wants of the people and can fill the office

better than the people themselves? How absurd the notion!

Is it because magistrates who fatten on encouraged litigation, and office-holders who would fain keep the county accounts a sealed book, not to be inspected by the people, prate about increased taxation? Reflect for a moment—no necessity for argument—common sense teaches the folly of the idea. Why should there be an increase of taxation? What new officers are appointed? The Councillors are not paid, and every County can find good and true men enough to take the office for the public good;—whence comes the increased taxation? Here, let the fact be known, it is the other way! In the item of salaries about £65 a-year has been saved; and who will say the work has not been better done, and more promptly, too, than under the old system, and that the officers are not amply paid for the services performed? There is no necessity for increased taxation growing out of the act; and, be the taxes more or less, the people directly impose them,—they who should know do know how the money is raised, what for, and what becomes of it. Then those who reject do so upon the degrading consideration that they are not fit to be trusted with governing themselves. Who will submit to exist under such an imposition?—You want the system, if for no other purpose, to educate yourselves. The natural consequence of the introduction of this system is to prepare men to carry it out, and, carrying on the system of municipalities, men are prepared to fill with honor to themselves all or any of the stations in life to which their countrymen may elevate them.

We do hope to see this institution become universal, for the sake of our country's progress—for the sake of the rising generation, who must largely reap the benefits of wise and liberal enactments, wisely and liberally carried out, by those who now direct affairs.

Let the people of Queen's try again; let them think the matter over carefully,—think what is due their own self-respect, what is due their Country,—and resolve no longer to be slaves to an imbecile system, but to be free men, and to embrace self-government; and thus at once benefit themselves, and lead other Counties to follow their example.

The meetings of the Town Council this week have been highly important ones, as will be seen by reference to our minutes published this day.

One very important matter, which should have immediate attention, is that relating to the Fire Department; and we trust that property in Woodstock will not be jeopardized by allowing that Department to remain in its present state of disorganization. As will be seen, the old engine has been given into the keeping of a company at the Lower Corner; but, as yet, we understand, the arrangements for the manning of the new engine are not completed. No doubt this will be immediately attended to.

We do not doubt that the Citizens of Woodstock generally will be pleased that the resignation of Mr. McLauchlan has not been accepted by the Council, as it would be, perhaps, impossible at once to fill his place efficiently; and at this season of the year there are many reasons why a change must be attended with danger.

The venerable editor of the *Head Quarters* must have been inflated with something more pungent than pumpkin pies this week. In impertinence he even exceeds himself. If he had any reputation, for respectability to lose, we should beg of him to take care of it, and not trouble himself about that of others. What about those misstatements with reference to Crown Land advertising? You were rather fast, wasn't you? You feel sore, don't you, that the Committee would not even consider your tender of valuable services. Don't fret. We see the Government have got three wheelbarrows to work now at the Creek. Be a good boy, and perhaps they will put on a fourth, and make you engineer of it. To such distinction your valuable services entitle you.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Letter with remittance received from R. S., Portage Lake. Do, and remittance from friend at Grand Falls. Order from Southampton received—paper sent. Our Georgia correspondent has our best thanks.

WORTHY OF NOTICE.—Mr. Manzer Asherton, of Prince William, who, a few months since, lost his house and a large amount of personal property by fire, has erected a fine large building on the site of the former, and is now prepared, as we can testify, to afford travellers excellent accommodations.

To OUR SUBSCRIBERS.—We are in want of potatoes, meat, meal, wood, homespun, socks, and various other necessities of life; just think of us when you have any of the above to spare.

TOWN COUNCIL—SPECIAL SESSION.

Woodstock, November 10th, 1856.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—Messrs. Baird, Dibblee, Bradley, Smith, and Hammond.

W. F. Dibblee, Esq., on part of Committee of Fire Wards to procure engine, presented Report and papers relative thereto. He stated that it was the wish of the Committee to have the matter settled, and the Engine assumed by the Town.

The Mayor stated that there was a sufficient amount to the credit of the Fire Fund in the Bank to discharge the £230 17 6, due to Messrs. Perry, and that the duties (provided the House does not remit them,) would have to be provided for by assessment.

On motion of E. J. Smith, Esq., seconded by W. W. Hammond, Esq.,

Resolved, That the Report of Committee, and vouchers accompanying are satisfactory; and that the Report be accepted, and liabilities assumed by the Town.—Carried unanimously.

Tavern Licence granted to Owen Kelly, for three months.

Tavern Licence granted to P. McGlin for three months.

The Mayor gave notice that in future he would charge, and place in a fund for benefit of town, the fees which law allowed him, upon all Licences issued.

Petition presented from J. McLauchlan, Esq., resigning the office of Fire Warden.—Referred for further consideration.

Petition presented from sundry inhabitants of the Lower Corner, setting forth that they had organized themselves into a Fire Company, and praying that the old Engine be placed at their disposal for the benefit of that part of the Town.

Prayer of Petition complied with.

Wholesale Licence granted to J. McKeon for three months.

Tavern do. granted M. Stephenson for 3 months.

On motion of W. T. Baird, Esq., seconded by E. J. Smith, Esq.,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to select places for lamp-posts, and ascertain the expenses for light, &c., to report on Wednesday night.

Resolution carried, and Messrs. Baird and Bradley appointed Committee.

On motion—*Resolved*, That in addition to water holes provided for at last meeting of Council, one be opened under the Bridge for the use of Fire Engine.

On motion—*Resolved*, That all accounts be handed to Clerk at least ten days before quarterly meeting of Council, and be by him handed to Audit Committee who shall report thereon.

Carried, and Messrs. McLean, Hammond, and Bradley appointed Audit Committee.

Council adjourned until Wednesday evening.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOV. 12.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, Messrs. Baird, McLean, Bradley and Hammond.

Tavern Licence granted to T. Collins for three months.

Tavern Licence granted to T. Ivory for do.

Mr. Baird, from Committee respecting Town Lamps, reports progress.

Resignation of Jas. McLauchlan, Esq., as Fireward, rejected.

On motion of Mr. Baird, a Committee is appointed to have a census of the town taken—such not to exceed five pounds. Committee, Messrs. Baird, Bradley and McLean.

On motion, *Resolved*, That 500 copies of the *Eye-Laws* of this Council be printed in pamphlet form, and Messrs. Baird, Hammond and the Clerk are appointed a Committee to have the same done on the most favorable terms.

Ac't of Mr. Bradley, amounting to 75s., ordered to be paid.

Ordered, That the Chief Engineer be notified to see that the Fire Department be put into efficient shape, and

Resolved, That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to draw the sum of ten pounds, if necessary, to defray expenses of putting Fire Department in good order.

If the following from the *Journal* be correct, left to the guidance of her present pilots, our country surely would become eminent in time, for sure never were men better qualified to secure "leisurely growth" and the most "tardy development." If the most tardy development be the surest, then by standing still we'll get there soonest.

"But the slow growth is the safest growth; mushroom states are generally of brief duration; the greatness and prosperity which are of the most leisurely growth, the most gradual formation, and the most tardy development, are almost invariably the firmest and most enduring."