

Restigouche had stated he occupied the same old place, and he might have added made the same old speech, for he always spoke in the same terms of the new system of Government. He had referred to the mode in which they were instructed when they were boys. He (Mr. F.) believed their parents never taught them to ridicule sacred things. Their early teaching would not warrant the exhibition his learned friend made yesterday. He hoped he never should again hear in that Assembly any of the great events of the Old Testament treated with such levity as his learned friend had evinced in allusion to the deluge. If they could act no better, for the sake of the country let them set a better example. His learned friend appeared on that occasion to delight in profanity. It was a peculiar kind of pleasure, and he did not enjoy it, but trusted it was the last time such a scene would be transacted in that House.

The Commissioner of the Board of Works had stated that he would give him his office and a pair of white gloves. He did not desire his office,—he was not competent to perform the duties; and as to the gloves, he had no use for them,—he had a pair, a little soiled, that would answer his purpose. He was not a very fashionable man; his life had been a life of labor and toil; being naturally thick-headed, it required a deal of labor and study to enable him to supply the defect of nature, and to cope with the practical prodigies of these latter days.—He was not born a politician or statesman, but required labor, anxiety and industry to acquire what little knowledge he had. His hon. colleague had referred to a dissolution, and to their relative positions. He (Mr. F.) professed to have as much courtesy and forbearance as ordinary men, and preferred living upon friendly terms; but if anything his hon. colleague said was intended as a threat, he wished him to understand that he (Mr. F.) did not fear him; he asked no favors. He was quite able to take care of himself, and was ready for the battle when the music sounded. If the County of York rejected him to-morrow,—and he had no fear of that,—some other man professing the same principles would be returned in his place; and whatever might occur in the future, he never would be guilty of the sin of ingratitude. He never would forget nor cease to feel grateful to the people of York,—the people who, when he was a mere boy, without any powerful connection or interest, simply from the weight of character, selected him to represent them in the councils of the country. He remembered the reason assigned was, if he turned out well he would last a long time. His learned colleague, the Solicitor General, had said that he was disgusted with the whole system; that good farmers were bought with money. He (Mr. F.) stood there a living proof of the incorruptibility of the County of York. If money could have kept him out, he would not have been there. When he went to the country, some of the old farmers told him that an enormous amount of money would be used to defeat him, and run and money had been scattered over the country with a most diabolical broadcast; but the freeholders could not be bought and sold like pigs in the market, or the government would have kept him out. He wished his learned colleague had been with him at Harvey, and seen those fine, stalwart Englishmen come up to the polls; they came with their sons as one man, to vote for freedom. If his learned colleague was at Canterbury and Southampton on the polling-day, he must have then witnessed an independent vote, and seen men whom money could not buy. He (Mr. F.) was sustained by hundreds of freemen, who valued their principles and freedom, and who would not barter their birthright. Nearly every member of the Government had expressed his disgust with the Departmental system. They all dislike it; still they sighed for the fleshpots of Egypt. The member for Charlotte read some communication about vinegar faces. The most vinegar faces he ever saw at one time was on the polling in June when he came in from Harvey. You could see the vinegar faces by the light of the lamps in the street; and he was informed that until the day of declaration the vinegar faces were found in abundance.—He (Mr. F.) was taken to bed with the exertions of the election. The hon. member from Charlotte and the learned member from Restigouche had both referred to a statement in the *Head Quarters*, representing him as having made a proposition to his York colleague. All he should say of it was that the statement was not true. He had not read that paper in six months. He understood that he received a fair share of abuse, and the names of the writers were rumored. He (Mr. F.) was here before they came, and would be when they were gone; and, when their vile productions would have been scattered to the four winds of heaven, he would be respected, for his life and conversation would be such that if his enemies did not love him they would respect him. He admired the liberty of the press, but not its licentiousness. There were a body of thinking men whose good opinion was desirable; and if he could secure their approbation, he desired no richer legacy to bequeath to his children. The Railway Bills were said to be loosely drawn, but the difficulties had not been pointed out; and it was passing strange that they were almost copies of the Nova Scotia Act, which had been in operation several years, and under which near half a million of money had been expended, and no party had found fault with their construction or pointed out any defect. It was said the Commissioners were not required to give security. The law was plain on this point. The money was to be deposited in some Bank in such sums as might be from time to time required, under such regulations as the Governor in Council might prescribe. They would require doubtless that it could only be drawn out as it was required to pay contracts by the joint check of the Chairman and Commissioner, and countersigned perhaps by some other officer.—This was the check and a most effectual one it was too, and the only security that could be desired to protect the public. He affirmed that the fifty thousand pounds of Debentures were illegally issued.—

The Railway Acts were one connected system. The first authorized the construction of Railways upon certain principles, and subject to certain restrictions. The preamble of the next act recited the object of the first, and it was necessary to provide funds therefor; and in it was the authority to issue Debentures. They could only lawfully be issued for the purpose of the first act. Now they could not be repudiated; however wrongfully issued, the Province must make good the obligations of its agents. Repudiation was out of the question. He regretted the word had been mentioned, but the government were culpable for the wrong. [Here Mr. F. read from Macaulay, page 31.—“We have been taught by long experience that we cannot without danger suffer any breach of the Constitution to pass unnoticed. It is therefore now universally held that a government which unnecessarily exceeds its power ought to be visited with some parliamentary censure, and that a government which under the pressure of some great exigency and with pure intentions has exceeded its power, ought without delay apply to Parliament for an act of indemnity.”] In this case they appeared to glory in their shame. It was said that £2700 had been saved by not appointing Commissioners; he had no doubt a larger sum had been lost for want of their supervision. But their salaries would only amount to about £700 during the time the work was in progress. In Nova Scotia their annual charge was £400 more than ours. He (Mr. F.) had urged that the system pursued would lead to jobbing. His learned friend from Westmorland who lived at the Bend, and who had argued a long time in a circle had satisfied him that there had been jobbing.—He admitted that the Road to Shediac from the Bend had cost upwards of £32,000 and stated that it had been let in small contracts because any other course would not have been fair to the people in this vicinity. Now Mr. Small had informed him that he offered to make the whole for £25,000, besides the bridges which were not included. Now that was less than the whole, and if so it was less than the several parts. The public money belonged to the whole people of the country, not to a particular locality. Why was not it given to Mr. Small? because he had means and resources independent of the Bank and people of the vicinity, and from his learned friend's speech he inferred it was divided into lots that there might be jobbing. His learned colleague the Sol. Gen. had stated that they had negotiated with Messrs. Baring for the postage of eighteen pence. If these transactions could be as well managed by letter as by an agent, it was singular that so many merchants went to England annually. The government appeared to have discovered a secret; they had not. He, Mr. F., had no particular desire to leave home and business; there was nothing very fascinating about it. But he could have effected all these monetary arrangements and as beneficial an Emigration arrangement as Mr. Perley for a much less sum than this economical government allowed Mr. Perley for his Emigration Mission. His learned colleague had intimated that York was to get nothing by the Railroad arrangements last year. It made provision for the Road on the valley of the St. John, and the zeal of his learned colleague so very great last year has since abated, and all we were to have now was the survey. Several members of the government, and other hon. members, had intimated that the bargain made with Mr. Jackson was a bad one.

He (Mr. F.) assented to the arrangement made by Mr. Robertson, one of the cleverest business men we had, ample proof that it was good to take the 17 miles from the Bend to Shediac at the price agreed to be paid per mile by the late government with Jackson & Co., amounted to £1100 sterling deduct what Small had offered to finish the road for 20,000 sterling, was the whole price agreed to be paid then. In addition to which there was iron for 13 miles more road. And all the work plant and materials on the road amounting to a very large sum. It had cost the contractors £165,000 sterling. His learned friend from Charlotte said that he was an independent man, and he (Mr. F.) wished to know who was not just as independent as he was. He said said he was opposed to the whole Railway scheme. No doubt of it. The Province had guaranteed £150,000 stg., and 200,000 acres of land to build a Railroad to St. Andrews, and his learned friend was satisfied,—the rest of the Province might take care of itself. He thought he and his colleagues might have a little gratitude if nothing else. He (Mr. F.) had understood the Press of St. Andrews had lauded the present government and decried the last for the Railroad arrangement, and what had astonished him was that the hon member for Charlotte (Mr. Boyd) had allowed these statements to go forth without contradiction, when he well knew how untrue they were. He knew that to him and the late government were the people of Charlotte indebted for the present state of their Railroad. Had not he (Mr. F.) and the late government taken up the question their Railroad would have been in the condition it was ten years ago.

He knew that he (Mr. F.) drew the Amendment and addition to the Bills that finally induced the House to pass them, and had he (Mr. F.) with the then Government not taken up the Bills they would not have passed. He was astonished that the member from Charlotte (Mr. Boyd) who knew the truth of all this had allowed other statements to go uncontradicted if they were made as he (Mr. F.) was informed they were. His learned friend had not treated his hon. colleague (Mr. Hatheway) fairly, he said he came into the market ticketed at £600 a year and could get no higher bid than £200.—The course his hon. colleague then took was inconsistent with his former years of political life, and on the hustings he had stated that he would vote for no resolution condemnatory of the Governor, that he would take his own course as to the Government, and he believed his constituents would approve of it. He (Mr. F.) had mentioned at the time that he was safe as no resolution would be offered about the Governor. The Hon. Surveyor

General had stated that he (Mr. F.) had called a meeting to glorify himself. He did not, his constituents had invited him to meet them and on the River St. John, we generally meet our constituents when they request, and the practice would finally prevail in the North whatever might be the course now.

The Carleton Sentinel.

WOODSTOCK, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1857.

While we believe it to be the duty of every man who rightly estimates the mission of the Press, and its effect upon society, to do his utmost to prevent its becoming an organ of licentiousness, at the same time we believe it to be an equally imperative duty to preserve inviolate its liberty; its right to discuss all those things which stand directly connected with the moral or political interests of the people.

A Magistrate in the City of St. John seems to entertain—at all events, he has propounded the doctrine—that the Editor who does discuss the conduct of public men in public life, is justly liable to ruffianly attacks on the part of those who may choose to feel aggrieved. We refer to the justification by the Police Magistrate (Mr. Johnston, in St. John,) of an attack on the Editor of the *Leader* by Mr. Simonds, a son of His Honor the Speaker. We enter our protest against such a doctrine, considering it to be one which will be met with feelings of disgust by every man of common sense, or who has feelings of common decency.

God help the country when the press becomes unbridled in licentiousness; hardly less deplorable would be its condition, if the gag law were applied to it.

DEBATE ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ELECTION BILL.

We give below a brief report of the two leading speeches on the Election Bill, which was committed on Monday. Those gentlemen will both probably speak again on the subject, and then we may print their speeches more at length.

This Bill is intended to revive the old Election Law for eighteen months, to cover any emergency which might arise, from death or otherwise.

MR. GRAY was the first speaker. He stated that the Bill had been brought in merely as a temporary provision, to meet any emergency which might occur. The Government intended to bring in a measure of a broad and liberal policy, but had no intention of returning to the old system any farther than to place the country in a safe position until another measure could be completed. He contended that the existing state of things demanded an immediate remedy, and that the Bill proposed by him was the most ready and effectual one. He went largely into figures to show the state of the Province. [This tabular statement we will publish shortly.] There were but three Counties in the Province in which the law had been fully complied with; York and Carleton, he considered, were entirely disfranchised. According to the strict construction of the law, between 15,000 and 16,000 of the electors who voted at last election were disfranchised; and by the most liberal construction, allowing those lists to be legal which were sent in by the 24th Dec., some 11,000 were disfranchised.

He exonerated the late Government from blame in the defects of the Election Law, as all large and important measures were liable to defects in their first operations.

He contended that the Bill before the House was demanded in justice to the country. Now that a large number of electors were disfranchised, it was not a correct system that a few parishes should return men to legislate for the whole country. This would be the case under existing circumstances.—In case of an election, York and Carleton were both entirely disfranchised; because, although the lists may have been made up correctly, they were not returned to the proper officers, under the strict reading of the law.

He briefly contended that the Bill before the House was an efficient and speedy remedy. No law containing principle of registration could be made to operate under 12 months.

He hoped the House would pass the Bill, divesting themselves of party or political prejudices, as a measure demanded by the existing wants of the country.

MR. JOHNSON rose to reply. He agreed with his hon. friend that there were evils existing under the law as it had been carried out, and thought it remarkable that he should have devoted over three hours to that part of his speech, endeavoring to convince the House of what they were already aware of.

He charged the failure of the law in many instances to the shortcomings of the proper officers, and to the desire of certain parties not to carry out the law. The failures had not occurred, it was a little singular, through the officers who had been chosen by the people—the Assessors, Revisors, &c., had done their duty; but in several instances those officers appointed by, holding office under, and responsible to, the Government, had failed in that performance. And he had reason to suppose that, when these officers had been guilty of neglect, they were personally opposed to the law.

He held that it was quite competent for the Sheriffs to receive the Revisors' lists up to the 24th day of December, and that on that day he had plenty of time to make up his lists. Where one Parish in a County had returned lists correct, and

the Sheriff had faithfully done his duty, he held that this was a legal register for the County.

He held the proposed remedy to be unjust, impolitic, and despotic, as it would take the franchise from hundreds who under the law had been invested with it, giving it to some who had been declared unworthy of it. The Bill had been recommended as an immediate remedy; but he (Mr. J.) insisted that it could not be passed without a suspending clause, and it would have to go home for Her Majesty's sanction,—that would prevent its immediate benefit. He charged the Government with going backward, in order, as they professed, to take a future advance: it was a principle which he condemned.

They had asked the House to repeal the law, without telling them what measure they would recommend in its stead; and the House was not justified in putting any confidence in the professed intentions of the Government,—their views were indefinite, their intentions undefined.

The Hon. Attorney General had in '51 voted for the Ballot; in '55 he voted against it; in '56 again for it: and now the fair inference was that he was prepared to oppose it.

He contended the Government had not redeemed their pledges made last summer. They ought to have laid the other measure on the table with the Bill before the House, and then the House would know what they were doing. He would submit an amendment which would cover all the defects of the law, and would, in ten days after its passage, place the country in a position to hold a general election without doing injustice to any party. His (Mr. J.'s) amendment provided that, in those Parishes in which the list had not been made up, the last assessment list should be taken; from that a register made, and immediately filed with and returned by the proper officer.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—J. J. Kaye, Esq., Agent at St. John for the above, has sent us the Company's Almanac for '57. It is beautifully got up in colours, and contains—in addition to very interesting and exceedingly satisfactory data connected with the operations and prospects of the Company—a large amount of rare and useful information, including an alphabetical list of Members of the House of Commons, and a Chronicle of events connected with the Russian War.

WE are requested to state on Saturday (this) Evening, Mr. John McKeon will deliver a lecture in the Mechanics' Institute, commencing at half past seven. Subject will be “the life and times of Robert Emmet.”

TOWN AFFAIRS.—On Monday last, according to announcement, the election for Mayor, Councillors, &c., for the ensuing year, took place; when L. P. Fisher, Esq., was re-elected as Mayor without opposition.

In Ward No. 1, there were three candidates, viz.: Messrs. Baird and McLean, the former Councillors, and Mr. W. Skillen. Messrs. McLean and Skillen were declared elected.

In Ward No. 2, the old Councillors were returned without opposition.

In Ward No. 3, the Candidates were—Messrs. J. Bradley, G. B. Upham, and J. Parent. The two gentlemen first named were elected.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Saturday evening last, Dr. Dow, of Fredericton, delivered a Lecture on “Society and its prospects.”

On Wednesday evening W. T. Baird, Esq., occupied the lecture stand, taking for his subject—“India.”

On next Wednesday evening, Revd. Mr. Seelye will lecture on the subject of—“Opposition to Discoveries and Inventions.”

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Remittance from Edmund Williams received.

A telegraphic account of a Railway accident of a most fearful character, that occurred at Hamilton, C. W., on Thursday, has just reached us. It appears that as the train was crossing a canal, the Bridge gave way, and precipitated the cars, one upon the other, into the water. About forty persons are supposed to have lost their lives.

DIED:

On the 24th ult. after a short illness, Elizabeth, beloved wife of Mr. Samuel Armstrong, in the 27th year of her age, leaving a husband and seven small children to lament their loss.

In this town, on Monday evening, 20th inst., after a few months sickness, Eliza, beloved wife of Mr. E. R. Parsons, and second daughter of R. S. Demill, Esq., formerly of this place, aged 28 years.

At Houlton, Me., on the 7th inst., Mrs. Emma Augusta, wife of Mr. Charles P. Tenney, and daughter of Leonard Pierce, Esq., aged 22 years.

At Northampton, on the 27th ult., Joseph Smyth, aged 80 years.

WANTED.

A MAN fully competent to take charge of a CARDING MACHINE, for which £6 per month will be given. GEORGE COX. Little River Mills, March 6, 1857.

WOOL CARDING.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the public that he will have his CARDING MACHINE in operation about the 13th of June next. Price per lb. for Carding, 3d. and 2d. GEORGE COX. Little River Mills, March 6, 1857.