

Poetry.

ANGRY WORDS.

Angry words are lightly spoken,
In a rash and thoughtless hour,
Brightest links of love are broken,
By their deep insidious power.
Hearts inspired by warmest feeling,
Ne'er before by anger stirred,
Oft are rent past human healing
By a single angry word.

Poison drops of care and sorrow,
Bitter poison drops are they,
Weaving for the coming morrow
Saddest memories of to day.
Angry words, Oh, let them never
From the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart's best impulse ever
Check them ere they pass the lip.

Love is much too pure and holy,
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly
Thus to desolate and mar.
Angry words are lightly spoken,
Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken
By a single angry word.

Provincial Legislature.

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

[Reported for the Sentinel.]

Hon. Mr. GRAY stated that having heard the speeches of two honorable members against the Government he had waited in order to ascertain the principal causes on which they grounded their attack. He was strongly opposed to the business of the country being delayed, and was anxious that this debate should be proceeded with. He believed the majority of this House were prepared to take a calm and deliberate view of the question. The hon. member had applied the terms "boldness" and "recklessness" to the speech, but he (Mr. G.) regarded the attempt to oust the present Government as more appropriately entitled to the character of recklessness. One of the very first charges made against the Government was that they had not enforced the provisions of the existing Election Law and they were responsible for the present state of things in the disfranchisement of a large portion of the province. He (Mr. G.) most emphatically denied that this state of things was attributable to the present Government. He had opposed the Election Bill when it was brought before the House, because he believed the basis on which it was founded was a bad one. At the time the objectionable features of the Bill were disregarded and it passed. The hon. member for York had laid it down as a principle that it was the duty of the Executive Government to see that the law was carried out. Between the Liquor Law and this Law there was a marked and essential difference. By the latter law it was declared by the Legislature that the man who placed himself in the position of a violator of it became a felon. It was evident that the duty of the Government was very clear, with such a law, but with the election law he was prepared to show that it was not the duty of the present Government to see that it was carried out, but that it was the duty with the Government which originated it to have done so. Throughout the whole law there was but one duty imposed upon a Government to perform in connection with it, and that duty was neglected by the late Government. [The hon. gentleman here referred to the 27th Section of the Bill in which the duty of the late Government was pointed out.] All the other machinery of the law was designed to be carried out by parties over whom the Government had no control and therefore there was no duty incumbent upon the present Government in connection with it. The present Government came into power in the month of June. For several months previous to this, the election of the local officers whose duty it was to carry out the law had taken place in several Counties. But notwithstanding several months had subsequently elapsed, not a single minute of instruction had been issued during this time by the late Government. How did it lay in their mouths then to charge the present Government with neglect of duty. Again, the Government had been charged with throwing obstacles in the way of the law, but he (Mr. G.) boldly and emphatically met that charge and denied it. He defied the hon. member for York to place his finger on one act wherein it could be shown that they had thrown obstacles in the way of the law. On the contrary, when he (Mr. G.) was called upon by the Clerks of the Peace, he gave them every information in his power relative to the provisions of the law. He further told them to put the most liberal construction upon it that it would allow, and to receive the lists even if they did come in after the specified time. Therefore so far from being chargeable with throwing difficulties in the way the Government did all in their power to have the provisions of the law carried out. When the proper papers came before the House it would be shown that the difficulties were the result of inaccuracies in the law, and the neglect on the part of local officers over whom the Government had no control. The Government had instituted the necessary inquiries relative to the law, in order that no mistake might be made. They had corresponded with the Clerks of the Peace and the Secretary Treasurers in the various Counties, and what more could they do. They felt it their duty to do all in their power to prevent if possible any portion of the Province from being disfranchised. Their lives were not safe

and it was not known how soon a seat might be made vacant and an election necessary. The Government were not disposed to overlook any neglect on the part of its subordinates, and when the papers came before the House it would be seen whose proceedings made the present state of things. He denied that any member of the Government had advocated Universal Suffrage, but even if they had the opposition had no right to condemn that as the policy of the Government. The House was under a very erroneous impression if it was expected that the Government were going to bring down an elective measure embodying Universal Suffrage. He as a member of the Government was desirous that every man who held an interest in the country should be qualified to exercise the elective franchise. The Government had been attacked not upon its future policy, but its past policy. Their measures had not been waited for, and he could show that there was nothing done by the Government within the last 6 months whereby they had forfeited the Confidence of the House or the people? When it was said they obtained power by illegitimate means, he would ask were they not all elected alike from the people? If it could be shown otherwise, then his hon. friend (Mr. Smith) was an illegitimate representative of Westmorland. He knew no source of power but that which sprang from the people. Respecting Responsible Government he could tell this House that he had been an advocate of its principles, and the Government were prepared to carry it out to the satisfaction of the country. He stated last winter that the then Government did not possess the confidence of the people, and the election which followed showed that he was correct. They might have represented the feelings of the Province but neither constitutionally nor practically did they represent the feelings of the people. His hon. friend from Westmorland had charged two members of the government with an attempt to bring responsible government into contempt. Who were better adapted for carrying out the principles of responsible government than those who had the confidence of the people and who had headed the polls at the elections in their several counties. If men holding such positions were not the men to carry it out, then he could not see by whom the principles were to be carried out.

Respecting their Railway policy, the honorable member for York had contended that the works were one great job of favouritism and that the public interests were not taken into account in advancing those works. Before proceeding to censure those arguments he would first notice one thing that astonished him. The honorable member for Charlotte (Mr. Gilmour) had read a garbled statement from the *Leader* purporting to be an account of the progress of the Railway works near St. John. The hon. member for York seemed to be especially delighted at the perusal of this article, but he (Mr. G.) could not believe that Mr. F. was so far destitute of the feelings which constituted a man and a patriot as to find amusement in such a source as this. The Government had also been charged with dereliction of duty in not appointing Commissioners. In the month of July the House was prorogued. Immediately after this the government proceeded to fill up the vacant offices. About this time or previous there was a great outcry in the country that the Railway works were not to be proceeded with. What was the duty of the government in such a case? A law had been passed imposing £45,000 additional Debentures upon the Province. An act had also passed the Legislature involving an expenditure of £90,000 for the purchase of the contract from Jackson & Co. Thus situated he (Mr. G.) would ask if the Government would not have proved recreant to their duty to have allowed Railway works to remain unproceeded with. The Government had been censured for not appointing commissioners and it was certainly an unprecedented charge to make against a government that they had not distributed all their patronage. A large portion of the preliminary work on the line between Shediac and the Bend had been accomplished when the Government came into power. The work was at any rate so far advanced as to preclude the necessity of appointing Commissioners. No complaint had come before the Government on account of land damages, but all felt willing to cede the right of way in order to have the work completed. The Hon. member for York could not surely think that it was necessary to appoint five Commissioners to build 15 miles of Railway. Again, it might have been a different matter if a less number than five could have been appointed, but the law expressly provided that it could not be less. Under other circumstances the Commissioners might have been necessary but they certainly were not in this instance. Besides it might have been thought judicious to amalgamate the Board of Works with the Railway and thus great expenses be saved. But it had been said that a Commissionership was offered to one of the members of the House and he had refused to take it. Now he (Mr. G.) would not shrink from his duty in giving to the House a statement of what had really occurred in connection with this matter. If the Hon. member for York (Mr. Hatheway) or any other member thought it was proper to divulge a conversation that had been held in this way then there was an end to all confidence. Six or seven years ago when he and the ex-Solicitor General were in opposition to a Government, they knew of confidential offers of this kind but they spurned to divulge them. Even the untutored savage when made to understand the nature of confidential intercourse could have some regard for a principle of secrecy. The hon. member for York, (Mr. Hatheway,) would endeavor to make the House believe that the policy pursued by the present Government and the principles they avowed prevented him from accepting office with them. But the Hon. gentleman had told them half of the story for the reason perhaps that it would not have been well for himself to tell the whole. He (Mr. G.) felt it a duty, unpleasant as it might seem, to state the facts of the case to the House. Several honourable gentlemen

had commented upon the appointment of the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works. The Government had looked for a gentleman of proper qualification to fill this office. They could not make all the appointments from St. John. In view of this, the appointment was made to Hon. Mr. McPherson, a gentleman who had three times been returned over the ex-Attorney General, (Mr. Fisher—No, no,) and he accepted the office, thus performing a duty to his County and his country. At the time this offer was made to Mr. McPherson both he and Mr. Hatheway met in the Secretary's Office. The former then said to Mr. Hatheway "you take the office Mr. Hatheway, I don't want it and I'll do all I can to secure your election." He (Mr. G.) being present immediately said to Mr. McPherson, "Stop Sir, you have no authority to make such an offer, it was made to you and not to any other gentleman." Mr. Hatheway shortly after left the office. Could it be inferred from this that Mr. Hatheway did not accept office with them because they were opposed to the principles of Responsible Government? No, it was this. The hon. gentleman had come into the market ticketed at £600 a year, but found that he could only get £200 and this was the secret of his opposition. Another member of the House was in the same position as Mr. Hatheway, but the former had acted the part of a gentleman in not divulging private conversation.

In respect to the charge against the Government for not appointing Commissioners, he would ask the House, as the trustees of the Public Funds, if the Government would not have proved recreant to their duty by creating this unnecessary expenditure. According to the Railroad Acts the road between the Bend and Shediac was to be completed before the works at St. John were commenced; but owing to the mildness of the season, which he (Mr. G.) did not give the Government credit for, it was found that the line between Shediac and the Bend would be completed before Spring, and consequently large numbers of men would be out of employment. Something, they thought, then, must be done, in order to keep those men from going out of the Province before Spring. Within 4 or 5 miles of St. John, there were extensive rock-cuttings to be made. It was ascertained by Mr. Light, the Engineer, and he (Mr. G.) was rather astonished at the sneering remarks made by some of the papers towards this gentleman, that unless those rock-cuttings were proceeded with this winter, the road out of St. John could not be made available during next summer. He would ask any experienced man to look at the manner in which the work was done and then see if Mr. Light's competency as an Engineer could be questioned. Some members had thought proper to make some ridiculous assertions about the progress of this work but contrast these with the opinions of a competent Engineer and they sink into utter insignificance. They found that if those three miles were completed in winter it would materially lessen the amount of cost for the construction of 6 miles out. Besides, it was one of the great links in what was to be a national highway and was therefore to be completed some time. Some of the arguments that were to be advanced against this work and its extravagant cost came with a very bad grace when it was taken into consideration that 4 or 5 miles of it was a permanent and not a temporary work only requiring the ballast to complete it. And it would remain a permanent work inasmuch as the Legislature and the country had determined upon this as the route of the European and N. American Railway. If the Legislature should determine upon another terminus, so much would be saved to the country by the completion of these three miles the cost as was stated, not having exceeded £5,000; a large expense was saved, by the fixing of the present terminus, in the way of transporting material. With reference to the mode in which the work had been carried out, the Government was prepared to justify it. Ask any farmer at what season of the year he would prefer that his marsh lands should be entered upon in case of it being necessary to undertake a Railway. Why, there was no question about it at all but the winter season was better for all parties. Suppose that they had said to the proprietors of land on the marsh, "Gentlemen, we are going to commence a Railway across here, in June next," the reply would be that there would be a heavy claim for damages by entering upon the land at such a season of the year. He (Mr. G.) would therefore state distinctly and unequivocally that the work could be done cheaper in winter time than in summer and it was the duty of the Government to act as they did. The whole four miles was done by contract and not by days' work. He held in his hands the tenders that had been made for the performance of the work, and they would prove to the House that the work had been done at the very lowest figure. One of the gentlemen who had taken a contract had much experience in the business, having been for many years engaged on works in Canada.

The assertion made by Mr. Hatheway, that the work on the Shediac road could have been performed for £15,000 less, was incorrect. The Engineer was now in Fredericton, and if the House thought proper, a Committee of Investigation could be appointed, and it would be seen if he were not correct in his statement about the works. [The hon. member here made some remarks in reference to what had fallen from Mr. Gilmour, but as there was some confusion at the time, his remarks were not heard.] It was rather singular that the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Gilmour) should complain of the works on the Marsh being proceeded with, when the Legislature had granted many thousand pounds towards the construction of Railways in Charlotte. He (Mr. G.) would ask, was the land in Charlotte soft, or was the softness in the heads of its members? (Roars of laughter.) He would answer for some of the representatives that they had not soft heads. Another hon. member for Charlotte had no confidence in the Government, and hoped never to have. Now there were two hon. members com-

ing from the same County, who said as much as if they were bound to oppose the Government in any good measure they brought forward. [Mr. Gilmour.—"That was not to be inferred from what I said. I said the Government came into power unconstitutionally." That did not improve the matter in the least. That question was settled by a vote of 26 to 15 last summer. Then again it came with a bad grace from Mr. McAdam to complain about the railway expenditure, when he himself, after earning all his money in the Province, had invested a portion of it in a railway out of the Province.—[Mr. McAdam.—"I did not say one word about the railway." He (Mr. G.), in review of the whole, was ready to justify what the Government had done. It could not be questioned that money had been saved. No member of the Government had touched one shilling of it, and it had not been used to increase their power. True, it might be argued they had no right to raise money without authority; but had not the same thing been done before by former Governments? The documents he held in his hand would soon be laid before the House, when it would be seen that the Government were justifiable in raising this money. He only regretted that, according to Parliamentary usages, members could not now individually examine the documents; they could not be laid before the House until the Address was passed. After this was done, all the necessary documents would be laid before the House, and it would be shown that, except in one or two particulars, the Railway Acts had been strictly carried out. In no instance had the Government deviated from the strict letter of the law, except in the non-appointment of Commissioners and Appraisers. True, they had not appointed any Appraisers, for the simple reason that there was nothing for them to do; but one or two claims for damages were before the Government, and those would be adjudicated upon. With reference to the finances, he could only say that when the Government came into power they found an empty chest. He did not suppose that any member of the late Government had used the public funds for speculation; but it might have been owing to their mismanagement that the public funds were so reduced, and their credit refused at all the banks. Again, it was very convenient for them to contrast the expenses of the two Governments; but it was a little singular that they had ignored the expenses of the former Government, while the debts they had incurred they left us to pay. Another charge made against the Government had reference to filling up the office of Postmaster General. What, he would ask, was the use of bringing in a Bill for the purpose, if the country did not require the office? or did they make it to have it dangling before the eyes of expectant office-seekers? He (Mr. G.) believed that, if the late Government had continued in power, the office would have been filled in less than three weeks from the date of their resignation. He and his colleagues believed that it was necessary to have the office filled up, and this was done at once, and they were ready to meet the people immediately afterwards. Another instance of dereliction on the part of the late Government was their neglect to pay their debts to the British Post Office. Their obligations to the mother country should above all others be promptly discharged; but he regretted to say that, from the time the late Government came into power until some time in 1856, the Post-Office debt had not been paid. One of the first things which greeted the present Government when they came into power was a letter from the Colonial Minister upon the subject. No Government was justifiable in retaining money under such circumstances. Up to the time the old Government went out in 1854, the moneys were properly remitted, and it was a duty to which no Government should fail to attend. The Emigration Scheme of the Government had also been a ground of complaint by the Opposition. He was surprised at the statement made by the two legal gentlemen who had spoken in opposition, that this mode of settling the land superseded the former existing mode. This they had also taken pains to bruit through the country; but he (Mr. G.) denied that the scheme interfered with existing regulations. As an individual, he was prepared to support those regulations, and he believed the country would support them, too. No doubt the scheme would be opposed by gentlemen who were in the habit of buying up large tracts of land for speculative purposes; and the scheme had been formed so as to guard against the evils which generally followed the course pursued by such speculators. According to the provisions of the scheme, a piece of ground could be obtained in any of the settlements allotted off in the several Counties. This ground could be had either by emigrants or by those living in the Province. They required the purchaser to improve the land, in order that settlement might be promoted. This was necessary in order that access by roads might be facilitated. It was the want of such roads that caused so many difficulties to be thrown in the way of the settler. He (Mr. G.) was prepared to enter any village in the Province, and take with him those regulations, and defend the principles on which they were founded. Only yesterday he had received a letter from Mr. Perley, now in England, where he learned that a large number of men were out of employment. The question was occupying public attention, as to which would be the best place for those men to emigrate to, the North American Colonies or Australia. The question of Emigration was not a new question, and opposition to the present scheme came with a bad grace from those who had never done anything to promote emigration when in power themselves. The late Government, at the opening of session '55, had alluded to the subject in their speech; but, during the eighteen months they were in power, they had not a single proposition to make, and therefore their denunciation of the scheme came with very bad grace. He did not believe that land should be offered for nothing. If this were the case, people who were abroad would not think that the land was of any value, and would not, therefore, some