

fruitful soil. But they wanted respectable settlers and with all the hue and cry made about the Emigration Scheme he (Mr. W.) believed it would have the effect of inducing a healthy stream of Immigration to the country.

Respecting what the Hon. member for York had said about Mr. Perley he would tell the House that he stood here to vindicate the character of that gentleman. It was to his talent and ability that the country was indebted for the Reciprocity Treaty. Mr. P. had his failings, perhaps he was a vain man and talked a little too much. The Government thought that as he was going home to England it would be judicious to expend £200 in connection with the mission and for the purchase of books and maps of the Province which were to be circulated in the mother country. He had just received a letter from Mr. Perley which stated that a large number of men were out of employment in Liverpool, and he directed his (Mr. W.'s) attention to an article in the *Times* containing suggestions relative to the sending of these men to the Colonies. He (Mr. W.) believed that the country would be settled. He knew how easy it was for the opposition to turn statements inside out, but he was of opinion that his voice would go just as far as any of them. He would call upon the House in fair play and justice to let the Government bring in their measures before they were condemned. The Resolution before the House embodied nothing more than a scramble for office. He was prepared to support Constitutional principles, and in their defence he and his colleagues stood high upon the poll in their respective Counties at the General Election. Respecting the charge which had been made against him relative to his vote against the Dissenters Marriage Bill, he was ready to justify and defend that vote. He had consulted with the Rev. Mr. Knight and other Clergymen on the subject and their views accorded with his in regard to the impropriety of giving every straggler who came into the country licence to solemnize marriage. He had ever done all in his power to allay religious excitement and he would continue in that course. It was not his intention to have occupied so much of the time of the House and he would ask honorable members to pause before they voted for the Resolution.

Mr. HARDING said he did not think it was advisable to hurry through the discussion as it involved a great political principle, as he heard Government members condemning the principles of Responsible Government in no measured terms. The Prerogative had been forced into the discussion as a veil to cover their present feelings, but that question had been settled at the Short Session. The Provincial Secretary denounced the opposition as rascals for office. He (Mr. H.) felt that to the party politically triumphant belonged the offices and that the present office-holders did not gain their position in that way that he should wish to see them if he belonged to their party, but by an infatuation which to a large extent ruled the late incumbents outside of politics, and which had caused temporary opposition to them. So far from destroying Responsible Government he wished it to grow as it had grown in other Colonies and this his native Province kept up with the times and not allowed to go back a hundred years. (Hear, hear.) Respecting the Railway policy of the Government it did not require a Lawyer to perceive that they were grossly violating the law. One of the Acts expressly provides for the appointment of five Commissioners, who were to order all works, receive and accept, if advisable, all contracts, and if the lowest tender not thought advisable to be accepted, to be if accepted only by the express sanction of the Government. Were any of those things done, were they not Law breakers and therefore not worthy of the confidence of the House? He (Mr. H.) had broken laws and suffered the penalty, how much greater should be the punishment of a Government. The fact of saving £2700 was a trifling matter in comparison with the example to the country of a Government's contempt for Law, but he doubted if the whole came to be investigated if the saving could be proved. The fact of their saving £50,000 to pay illegal contracts justified any imputation against them, and he wished to see a Government in all money matters keep themselves in such a position that the finger of slander could not be pointed at their acts. In 1852 and two following years, the Govt. had been censured for not having their public accounts laid before the House simply and satisfactorily; and now when millions were about to be expended, how much more necessary was it to follow the law of the land when it laid down certain guards and protections, which were by the course now pursued, being treated with contempt and required to be nipped in the bud.—Where was the check to extravagance, if we went back to the old system and destroyed party government? Men were liable to temptation. In this instance, it may be said, the work is being done cheaply, but who knows it? A direct employer of the Government superintends the works and over him there is no competent man, and he warned them to be careful that he (the Engineer) did not soon rule the Government, instead of the Government ruling him, if this course was followed up.—He (Mr. H.) wished to see Railways progress, but he wished to see fair play, and that the benefits should be general, and that recklessness and heedlessness should be denounced. He believed that in the first place, the amount of work necessary to be done should be ascertained, and that they should be satisfied that they could get sufficient money to perform that work; this being done, complete it as fast as men and money can do it. In Canada, by means of Railway communication, the upper Province had increased, in a few years, from 200,000 to a million of people,—millions of money had been spent, and that did more for the encouragement of Emigration than all other schemes that the Government could propound. The same policy would people New Brunswick, and he trusted to see the day when we could all boast of being the United Colonies of a British Empire—the equal, if not the superior of our Brother Jonathan. He de-

precated the introduction of religious sectarianism into the formation of a Government, as it was necessary to get the best men of the party at all times to fill the highest offices, regardless of creed or sect. In reference to what had been said of the talents of the gentleman named as having proceeded to England on the Emigration scheme, he respected his talents and felt proud of him as a colonist, but he hoped it would not be quite as expensive as the running the Canadian boundary line had been, which was performed by some other talented gentlemen costing about £18,000. Last year it had been stated that the people of Canada were opposed to Railroads; such, he assured the House, was not the feeling in Canada now; many of the Municipalities, though taxed to some extent for the costs of the Roads, paid it cheerfully, their position having been so much improved in consequence of the facilities given by the roads. The hon. Commissioner of the Board of Works talked of building a road through the Province, straight as the crow flies, bridging rivers, and so on, as if that were possible or judicious. It could not be done; and hearing those expressions, he was not surprised that a part of the work, nearest the city, was, for the sake of economy, being done by days work, [which was denied by Mr. Gray, who stated that every yard was under contract.] This might be the case but he doubted it. His hon. friend, the secretary, stated that there were three miles now completed; if so, he (Mr. H.) never saw a complete mile of Railway. Was there a load of ballast on any mile of the road? Surely not; then how was it completed? Rails and sleepers were laid on the mud, but though not an engineer, he would inform them that the present cost would not be more than half the expenditure required to complete any mile of the same. Spruce sleepers make a complete road! He stood here now to try the Government politically. The Government as at present constituted, is in heart the same as that turned out in 1854, and therefore should be turned out again. They obtained their offices not by their own merits, but by circumstances outside of the political arena which had agitated this Province for the last two years, and which had caused him to step out of the political boat that the question might be tested, but which he would have liked to have seen tested in another way. The Government grasping the contract of the Railways, and all the monies consequent thereon, were centralizing power which is injurious to countries supposed to be ruled by the popular voice. He wished to see the Government forcing self-reliance and action in the different localities, and not forcing an obsequious hat in the hand fawning on themselves which is always the effect of the centralization of power, which is necessarily followed by corruption;—and to such a course he would always be opposed, and believing by their acts, that to be the intention of the present men in power, he opposed them.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18.

Mr. LAWRENCE said, from the position taken by his hon. colleague in seconding a resolution of want of confidence in the government of the country, which he thought they were both elected to support, he (Mr. L.) felt a wish to learn the grounds of his colleague's opposition, before he addressed the House; for if they were such as to justify his conduct, it became a matter with him (Mr. L.) for serious consideration whether it did not become him to pursue a like course. He regretted for his colleague's sake that he (Mr. L.) felt compelled to say that by his colleague's own showing, he was called upon not only to uphold the government, but if possible to give them a more determined support; for if he had established anything by his Speech, it is that he should pursue the like course, and not be acting in concert with the opposition.

Mr. HARDING said he was the advocate of responsible government. What is Responsible government but the recognition of the fact that power emanates from the people? Did the late government—the leaders of the opposition, act up to it when they refused an appeal to them, and condemned the Governor for the exercise of a Prerogative which under Responsible Government is the only security that the country has against a body of men once in power, of remaining there for the period of four years? Was it not the present Government who defended the Prerogative at a time when the leader of the opposition not only disputed the propriety of exercising it last summer, but some of them maintained that it was unconstitutional to exercise it at all, and that too in the face of a law enacted in 1848, which distinctly states that the Assembly shall continue to exist for the period of four years, unless sooner dissolved by the Lieut. Governor.

Were not Mr. Harding and himself sent here by the constituency of St. John to sustain that Government which upheld a prerogative which secured an appeal to the country? That was what he called upholding Responsible Government, and he could not but hope that his colleague would see that adherence to his principles required him to sustain them until it was clearly shown, from the documents submitted by the Government to the House, and not from the cry of men who are determined to overthrow the Government under any circumstances, led on by a faction of disappointed and ambitious men, that they have forfeited the confidence of the country. He (Mr. L.) thought it could be shown that the leader of opposition was the first to violate it. He went into the Government in 1848 for the declared purpose of assisting in working out that system. How did he do it?—Let us examine. At the Election of 1850, he was defeated in the County of York; did he resign his seat in the Executive Government when he lost the confidence of his constituency? No. If that is carrying out Responsible Government, it was not the way the country expected it would be done.—He (Mr. L.) knew the argument advanced in defence of that course was that if the Government saw proper to retain one of their number, on account of the exigencies of the country, who had suffered

defeat, that constituted a justification. If the argument was good for one remaining under such circumstances, it was good for two or more.

He maintained that if a member of the government loses his election, he loses the confidence of the country, and consequently to hold a seat in the executive after a defeat, is a clear violation of the principles of Responsible Government. And in that view of the case he was sustained by no less an authority than Lord Durham, who in his report says "Those public servants who are to have the general direction of affairs, exercise that function by virtue of their responsibility to the Legislature, which implies their being removable from office, and also that they should be members either of the Assembly or of the Legislative Council."

He would refer to another case. Some two years ago Mr. Cutler, a member from the county of Kent, was appointed by the great expounders and defenders of Responsible Government to a situation of responsibility and emolument without going back to his constituents. Was not that a violation of the great principle which his hon. colleague so much venerated? violated too by the very men with whom is now acting in concert. But what will the House and the country think of Mr. Harding himself accepting the same office, and thus violating the very principle which he brings forward in defence of his abandonment of a government who gave to him that situation, and in whose employment he was down to the middle of January last. He (Mr. L.) did not justify that government in acting in opposition to that principle; it is true they could plead the precedent established by their predecessors. But he would ask, why did not his colleague show his zeal for that principle in going back to his constituents when he entered upon that office, instead of condemning the men who appointed him to it, after the work is done and the money received? Did his hon. colleague condemn the government, and say that it is a violation of his principles because they are opposed to this discussion at the present time, and are asking at the hands of the House a suspension of their judgement until they have an opportunity of laying the public documents on the table. This discussion he asserted in the absence of these papers was premature and unfair, for it was only a scramble for office without any regard to the interests of the country.

(Continued next week.)

The Carleton Sentinel.

WOODSTOCK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1857.

FREDERICTON, February 25.

The great debate upon the question of confidence in our already shattered Government has been brought to a close; and, though the question cannot be considered as decided, yet enough has occurred to give new heart and hope to the Liberal party in this Province, who form the great majority of the people. That the Government did not possess the confidence of the country was evident immediately after the excitement of the Prohibitory Law had passed away. The manner in which they filled up their body foreshadowed still more strongly their early fall. But their total disregard of the Election Law—leading to the disfranchisement of hundreds of electors; their contempt of the Railway Acts, and their refusal to obey them, and carry out their provisions; their violation of the positive enactments of the three branches of the Legislature in drawing £50,000 contrary to law; their ridiculous exhibition of extravagance in attempting to hoodwink the people by digging frozen mud on the St. John flats,—these, any of these charges, were sufficient to justify their speedy ejection from office.

The Speaker gave his casting vote in favour of Government. This every one admits to be a defeat. We are not quite sure that it is strictly in accordance with English Parliamentary practice for the Speaker to vote for the Government on an equal division of the House, but we are sure that it is entirely unparliamentary and unconstitutional for that functionary to traduce the recognized constitution of his country, and the motives of his fellow Commoners. Mr. Speaker Simonds—and we speak of him, as a gentleman, with the utmost respect—has done this.

Is it true the members of the Assembly collectively are a set of mere office-seekers without one spark of patriotism among them? Is it true that Responsible and Departmental Government—the glorious heritage of the British people—is unfit for the people of this Province? Is it true that the old family compact, corrupt, worn-out system of Government, is the one thing needful for us? Is it true that since the people have been taught to respect themselves, to rise to the dignity of men, to feel that they too have rights—the prosperity of the country has been thereby retarded, the value of property lessened? Do self-reliance, and self-respect, and political freedom, and British Responsible Government produce these disastrous results?—It has been authoritatively asserted that they do, and that too by the first Commoner in the land. Are the people prepared to tolerate these ideas of two or three centuries ago? The Government have announced their hostility to Responsible Government—the Speaker has joined in their denunciations, and truly out-Heroded Herod.

The people will rise in their might—to use the Speaker's language—but it will be to crush out the last spark of toryism from among us. We'll no more of it. The late debate will arouse the public attention to a pitch which it has never before reached. The large amount of talent displayed in the liberal ranks—infinity beyond that of their opponents; the self-denying consistency of the men themselves,—have given them strong vantage ground. The result is easily foreseen. No set of honest politicians would have clung to office in the very teeth of such an opposition. But the present Government are not bound by any nice sense of propriety.

The present Liberal party present a strong phalanx of determined, clever, and consistent men.—Victory is already theirs; they are right, and will prevail. There never was a more united and unanimous body of men in any Colonial Legislature; and we confess we felt proud of them, as we saw them rise, with all the calm, resolute determination of men who felt themselves insulted by the present state of things, and record their solemn protest against its continuance. They have done their duty, and the country will reward them. Carleton may be proud; her men were in the right place. Connell and Perley did their duty. Tibbits and Watters reflected credit upon Victoria; they stood to the front like men.

The speaking on both sides was good, with the exception of that of Mr. Barberie, which was an insult to the House and the country. The speeches reflected credit upon the members. Gray, Lawrence, Street, Botsford, and Allan, were the great guns of the Government. On the opposition were Fisher, Johnson, Smith, Watters, Mitchell, Gilbert, Hatheway, Gillmor, McLellan, Tapley, &c., whose speeches were far above mediocrity.

Fisher's speech in concluding was pronounced one of the best he has ever delivered. It was eloquent and forcible in the extreme. York should thank him for his warm denial that her electors could be bought and sold like sheep. "I stand here," said Mr. F., "a living proof that 800 of the electors of York at least, can not be bought; that their independence is above price; that all the money of the Government can not turn them from their principles."

The excitement in the House at the conclusion of the Speaker's Address on Monday was intense. Harding having been personally alluded to by the Speaker, replied in indignant yet dignified language. The next morning Fisher and others referred to it in the same dignified yet determined language, hoping that after a night's reflection, his Honor had concluded he had been too severe; to which the Speaker in reply, only regretted that on the evening previous he had not had time to say more.

So rests the matter for the present.

We publish below the following Speech of Mr. Connell, out of the regular course in which it occurred, in order to meet the wishes of our readers in Carleton County.

MONDAY, February 23.

Mr. CONNELL said he could not agree with the opinion expressed by some hon. members that this discussion was a perfect waste of time; he thought that whatever the immediate result might be, great good would come of it. The views of the various members, as expressed in that House, would be scattered over the country, informing the people of the course of action adopted, and leading them to reflect upon the great principles involved.

He (Mr. C.) did not think the issue had been fairly put before the House by the Government and its supporters. The question before the House involved, not the issue between the late and present Governments, but between the present Government and the people, and he came to the House, and stood there, not to defend any body of men, or to carry out personal proclivities, but to express his honest opinion upon the acts of the Government; and when the question under discussion was decided, he hoped the members would unite in applying themselves to the business of the country. He agreed with the hon. member from Restigouche that it was necessary for hon. members to explain their position. It was somewhat singular that that gentleman had never been known during his Parliamentary career to vote against the existing Government. When hon. members held so many offices as that hon. gentleman did, people would express opinion, and question the motives which influenced them. For his own part he had not been very fortunate in receiving office, as, since his entrance into that House in '46, he had never received one shilling of public money, except his pay as member.

He (Mr. C.) did not care much for a name. Under the system of Responsible Government no doubt great wrongs were perpetrated. There existed as much necessity for watching the Executive under that system as any other; and there was room for and need of political reform even under its workings. He hoped the day would come when no public office holder would have a seat in the Assembly. Notwithstanding the statements made by members of the Government and their friends, from which the inference might fairly be drawn that they were opposed to the system, he (Mr. C.) did not feel alarmed as to the ultimate success of