

The death of this lady will occasion a chasm in the world of letters that will not soon be filled with equal talent, or receive such general acceptance. Her qualifications for the species of literary labour to which she directed her genius with such honorable success were of the highest order. To a fertility of invention not often surpassed for its exuberance, she united a close observation of living manners, and a quick and accurate discrimination of human character. From the combination of these rare endowments, she acquired the magic power of moulding the creations of her fancy into the forms and incidents of actual life, and of imparting to them, with an intensity immeasurably increased, all the deep and affecting interest which springs from the complicated workings of human passion, and supplies the ample and varied ingredients of human bliss and of human woe. Her delineations of character uniformly display the touches of a master-hand.

She sketched with a rapidity and decision, and with a truth and force of colouring which may be aptly compared to the most striking productions of her brothers bold and rapid pencil upon canvass. Her portraits have all the personal individuality and all the force and vividness of real life. There was much of the romantic of gone-by times in Miss Anna Maria Porter's mind, which may be traced in some of the incidents of her tales. But this never blinded her judgment in her estimate of the actual condition of society. Her representations of living manners are always true to nature; and her familiar intercourse with persons moving in the highest circles enabled her to delineate, with a fidelity not often to be found in other writers, the discriminating peculiarities, feelings, usages, and language of the more polished and privileged classes. Her writings are also marked by a high tone of moral feeling—an excellence above all praise—equally pervading the publications of her amiable sister. Her style is characterised by a graceful ease and fluency, admirably adapted to her immediate purpose; her narratives are unartificial, smooth, and spirited; her dialogues possess all the flexibility and point of the best conversation; and her didactic lessons are delivered with a simple gravity and force irresistibly impressive and affecting. In private life, Miss Porter was distinguished for the purity and elevation of her moral character. Her pleasing manners, the affability of her temper, and her extraordinary powers of conversation, won for her the esteem and affection of a large circle of acquaintance, by whom her departure will long be deeply deplored. To the public she has bequeathed a well-earned reputation, which will, we doubt not, transmit her name with honour to a remote futurity.

POLITICAL EXTRACTS

SPIRIT OF THE PROVINCIAL JOURNALS.

NEW MONTREAL GAZETTE.—By a communication made to the House of Assembly, through his Excellency the Governor, we perceive that the opinion of His Majesty's Government on the case of Mr. Christie, is such, as will call forth a renewed discussion of the reasons of the House for their continued expulsion of that gentleman. As soon as these reasons shall be plainly before the people, we will prove them to be unconstitutional and subversive of the rights and liberties of His Majesty's subjects. We stand now upon even ground. The Government say if the facts be really such as are stated in the resolutions passed by the inhabitants of the County of Gaspé, it doubts not that the Assembly will rescind the vote by which Mr. Christie was excluded from his seat. We say now, what we have always urged, prove them not to be the real facts of the case at issue between the House of Assembly and the inhabitants of the County of Gaspé—they cannot be disproved.

The reasoning of His Majesty's Government in Lord Goderich's Despatch as to the construction of precedents brought to bear on this case of Mr. Christie, is to our minds conclusive. The subject was agitated in all its bearings, and the point at issue definitely and permanently settled by the Parliament of Great Britain, in that celebrated discussion which called forth the vote of the 3d of May, 1782. This principle, thus established, is the constitutional rule of our Government, although it has been altogether set at naught by the recent decision of the House of Assembly. We hope sincerely and ardently that previous opinions and prejudices will be laid aside, that the great constitutional question will be brought before the House, and the whole matter discussed with an earnestness for the general welfare, union and happiness of the Province, equal to the warmth exhibited so fiercely on the subjects involving party interests and personal consideration.

Our last news from Quebec makes us acquainted with the fact that our representative Mr. Mondelet, has been compelled to vacate his seat by a majority of the House of Assembly, in consequence of his having received a call to the high and honourable and responsible station of an Executive Counsellor to his Majesty. We are not in possession of the debates of the House on the question, but the division on the motion that he vacate his seat was 32 yeas, 27 nays, majority 5.

Electors of the County of Montreal, your candidate is sent back to you, because our sovereign has called upon him to act as his Counsellor, and because he has accepted the honourable station with a disinterested design to promote your and our common interests of this Province. He positively and unequivocally declares, when he communicates to the House his acceptance of this honourable station, he accepted it only on the condition that he should act as free as the Air of Heaven. We did not wish, we would rather he had have avoided this declaration, but we suppose he, knowing the nature of the body of which he composed a part, considered it necessary. Electors of the County of Montreal, your representative is your choice and the choice of His Majesty's Government, as a Legislator in a twofold capacity of our beloved country, and therefore shall he be, we were about to say rejected, but we would rather say shall he not be triumphantly returned to the station from whence he has been compelled to recede. Do you not see in this act the effort, the constant and unwearied effort to thwart the design of the Government in promoting the best interests of the Province. The cry is perpetual, the Canadian influence is not sufficiently felt in the Government of this Province; the Canadian influence, Gentlemen of Canada, the Canadian influence; what is meant by these words; are we not all British born subjects. Who is sowing this division amongst us? Division! the mother of anarchy, bloodshed and death; the scourge of the human family, whether in the humble cot or the splendid palace, the republic or the monarchy.—Listen, Canadians, to the voice of wisdom, which will teach you the happiness of union, and be not led astray by the Will of the Whisp light of any party

amongst us. We solemnly believe the entire object of the mother country to be the honor, happiness and prosperity of this Province; and that one of the most prominent acts to prove this earnestness of purpose, has been the selection of your Candidate, to aid it in so laudable an end. Electors of the County of Montreal, we hope you will set your seal to this magnificent project, by giving overwhelming majorities to the man of your choice.

PICQUET PATRIOT.—*Quit Rents.*—We have been slow to believe that His Majesty's Whig Ministers were in earnest in their threats to collect the Quit Rents in this Province. In P. E. Island it would be fair and useful to collect them, because that Colony is parcelled out to jobbers, and not to the deserving yeomanry, who are willing, by the sweat of their brow, to convert a dense wilderness into fruitful fields, and the land of bears into a country of consumers of British manufactures. But in this Province, where, with one or two exceptions, there are no large grants, the collection of the Quit Rents will be a measure of unmingled evil. We cannot think of an ardent stupidity—laying aside all considerations of justice and liberality—without feelings which we do not wish to cherish toward a liberal Ministry. We happen to know a little of the movements at the Colonial Office; and we believe we know the motives of the Ministry in enforcing this odious tax. The government has got some bad bargains on its hands in Nova-Scotia, which John Bull will not long adhere to, and which Nova-Scotia will not take. The Quit Rent fund, it is hoped, will come to the aid of Ministers in this dilemma. The Bishop must receive his £2000, say the Ministry; and if a Reformed Parliament cannot be persuaded either by fair means or foul. To propose the payment of this salary to the people of this Province, or their Representatives, would be to declare open war with the Colony; and the only other mode is, to exact this odious and dormant tax, and convert its proceeds to the support of his Lordship. But there is still a mistake in the plan, which will destroy its expected results. The Collectors will consume the whole proceeds, and leave nothing for his Lordship. Then Ministers—Whig Ministers too—are to collect a tax which barely pay for its collection! But we will not believe it. Yet we must believe; for New-Brunswick is writhing under the abominable project. It was well done to try the system there first, for there political servility is more servile than here. Do be sensible, my Lord Goderich, and take advice from the Representatives of this Province, rather than from the Bishop. We assure you that his Lordship's influence is a mere nothing, and the Province will not rebel even if your Lordship should commit sacrilege, by robbing him of three-fourths of his enormous salary. But, my Lord Goderich, mark what we say, when we tell you, that Nova-Scotia will not, under any pretence, nor by means of any direct or indirect mode, pay one shilling to support any Bishop, Archdeacon, Prebendary or Curate, except by the New Testament plan of supporting the Clergy—namely, voluntary contribution. Beshink yourself in time, therefore, my Lord, before you get too far to retreat with dignity, or proceed with honour in your Administration.

MONTREAL COURANT.—*Disfranchisement of the County of Gaspé.* This County is again, and for the fifth time, disfranchised by the House of Assembly. It appears, as matters stand of late, both in Upper and Lower Canada, that the right of the people to representation, is placed at the mercy of the popular branch of the Legislature. Until of late years, we had considered the right of representation as inalienable—one which was more sacred to freemen than any other, and which could not, and dare not be infringed, by either an individual or by collective tyranny. Numerous instances now stand broadly on record, to convince us of the contrary. The County of Gaspé in the Lower Province, and of York in the Upper, have been time after time, disfranchised, by the expulsion of their representatives from the Assembly. This high-handed work must come to an issue—freemen will no longer endure such treatment—they will not suffer their eyes to be blinded by a noise made about Whig and Tory, Scotch and Canadian parties. They will shew the Members of the House of Assembly, that they are the servants of the people, deputed by their voice to preserve, not to trample upon their rights. That no county or borough can be deprived of its representative, legally chosen, unless he is disqualified by legal disabilities, and that the raising the vote of the popular branch of the Legislature paramount to the most sacred rights of the people, is a breach of constitutional liberty, which will not be suffered to pass unrequited. The voice of the electors will speak in terms, not to be misunderstood, on this subject, at the next General Election. Mr Bourdages charges Mr Christie with originating the project of separating Gaspé from Lower Canada; this is in keeping with the hazardous assertions of this gentleman. The project was first hinted at by the Editor of this paper; we shrink not from avowing it, and we furthermore hint, that perhaps the day of its accomplishment is not so distant as some would suppose.

FROM THE ST. JOHN COURIER.

Dear Mr Editor,—I am fairly enraptured by the very flattering compliment that you have paid me in your last week's Courier; and although you seem to doubt the truth of a *Secret Service Fund*, I can readily pardon your incredulity, because the very magnitude of the offence imparts to it something like an air of fiction, but it is true though—and I will give you a history of the whole matter just now. People are wondering and marvelling how John Gape procures so much first handed information. I will tell you and them a secret. You remember the story about the Ring of Gyges, a Lydian King, which would make him invisible when put on his finger; well, dear Mr Editor, do you know that I am the present possessor of that iden-

tical Ring. You may laugh, but I tell you a positive truth, and when I next see you, I will convince you of the fact. Now then, Dear Mr Editor, the Cat is out of the bag; and you know the whole ins and outs of the affair. Whenever I want to take a peep behind the curtain, and see how matters are conducted in the Secret Sanctuaries of our Public Offices, on goes my ring, and in I walk, none daring to say, 'whither goest thou?' because they don't see me; but I have sometimes a great deal of trouble in preventing the crowd of mercenary creatures that are continually wandering about the anti-chambers of the Great, from running against me, and so leading to a discovery of the 'invisible spy,' but hitherto I have escaped notice, and I think with a moderate share of prudence, I shall be able to gaze in the Escritoires, &c. of the Government Agents, until I shall have made most wonderful discoveries. Now, dear Mr Editor, it was just by means of my Ring, that I contrived to get at the *Secret of the 'Hush Money'*, but as I am not in a composing humour at present, I will just transcribe the entry which I made on the spot in my Memorandum Book. I dare not mention names, but your readers may form their own conclusions as to the persons that are intended to be pointed at.

Memo. OF THE ORIGIN OF THE SECRET SERVICE FUND.

"A certain person who possesses unlimited power in New-Brunswick, had directed that the sum of three pence per ton should be paid as survey fees on all timber licensed to applicants in the Province, which in the year 1831, amounted to £2400. This sum was included in the amount of Receipts of the King's Casual Revenue, and submitted monthly to the inspection of the Auditor General; the said certain person being lately in England, procured an order from a certain Cabinet Minister, that the said sum of three pence per ton of survey money as above, should be placed at the absolute and sole disposal and controul of the said certain person, to defray the expense of certain secret services; and that the said sum (perhaps £2400 as above, was not to be noticed in the amount laid before the Auditor.—Upon the receipt of this order, a certain greater person, remonstrated with the certain Minister against the impropriety of that determination, asserting the probability that such a transaction, if made public, would give general dissatisfaction to the country, and be attended with most lamentable consequences. The certain Minister being unable to resist the conviction which the said representation was calculated to produce, rescinded his order so far, as to direct that the expenditure of the survey money alias secret service money, should be examined by a private audit. MIGHT OVERCOME RIGHT."

The foregoing, dear Mr Editor, is a copy of my original note on the subject, and I will vouch for its truth; will you still doubt me? I guess not. If have asserted falsehoods, the Press is open for the allegations of those who are implicated in the measure: but they know that I am correct, and, dear Mr Editor, their uniform silence upon all the remarks that I have made in my communications, is a tacit admission of the facts. I have been informed that some of the official sycophants affect to smile at the remarks of John Gape. I once read of an Indian, whose canoe, (in which he lay asleep) was on the river shore, a little distance above Niagara Falls—it accidentally floated away—but the Indian waked not until all human skill was unable to rescue him from destruction—he started on his feet, gazed wildly around him, uttered a bitter laugh of mental anguish, grasped his rum bottle, and was dashed over the precipice while in the act of drinking. Just so with them—I admire even the appearance of fortitude in danger, and advise them to continue to smile at the feeble attacks of John Gape, until they find themselves at the brink of the abyss, then ———— but now for some more

EXTRACTS FROM MY JOURNAL.

Saw some observations in the *Miramichi Gleaner*, implying that the lands which were reserved for public uses, had not been sold. *Mem.* Wonder who said so, would like to know whether it was not one of the little Tadpoles who swim about in the huge pond of corruption at Head-Quarters, commonly called the Department; believe it must have been so, and would call the attention of Mr Pierce to the fact, that almost every single ungranted Lot in the County of York and of Carleton, that had been set apart for Glebe Lands or for the support of Schools, was sold by the Commissioner;—believe that all were offered for sale, but the upset prices of some were too high, and no bidders offered:—will explain this more fully hereafter.

Heard that a small triangular piece of ungranted land in the lower part of Fredericton had been applied for some time since by a son of the individual who owned the adjacent lot: the Governor and Council declined to pass a Grant then, as they wished to keep it an open space—this the Commissioner has recently sold for £96; heard that the former applicant had memori-