

This third class formed the connecting link between the working classes and the aristocracy. Such was the case at that time; and I ask if you are of opinion, that the influence of the aristocracy or the influence of the Crown is greater, or nearly as great now, in relation to the people at large, as it was during the time of the Plantagenets and the Tudors. There was here a visible progress of liberty all over the country from that period to this; and would any man assert that there was a period at which the people were ever more free than at the resignation of the Duke of Wellington. Many obnoxious statutes, if he chose to call them so, had fallen into desuetude; many millions of taxes had been remitted; and, above all, the liberty of the press—and God forbid that I should utter any sentiment which could controul the liberty of the press, which has been called the palladium of the people's liberties—the press was then more free and uncontrolled than it had ever been known to be at any period in the history of Europe. It is not expected that I am to enter on a philosophical discussion on the British constitution—you are all well enough informed to know its general principles and spirit—even the most unlearned here understand that. But I ask, is it likely that the spirit of the constitution is to be improved by such measures as those lately proposed? Is it likely to be improved by removing all power of election from the working classes, of however many millions these classes may consist? It is a proposal, that the poor voters shall ultimately have no power of election at all.—(Cheers.)—I ask, if the constitution is likely to be improved by shutting every gate against the legitimate influence of wealth and intelligence—every gate except a gate through which, although wide, many might see the broad ways of corruption? I ask if it will be any improvement in the constitution, to open up a thousand avenues, which shall not only diminish and confine the power of the aristocracy, but, if persisted in, will unjustly, and contrary to all the principles of that humanity which has ever yet breathed through a nation of gentlemen, make them the undesired objects of odium instead of being the proudest pillars of the state! (Cheers.) May I be permitted to proceed a few minutes longer? We have been told a thousand times, and we shall be told many thousands more, that the whole people of Great Britain were for the late bill of reform, and that they are for it still.—Yes, yes, from two or three voices—re-echoed by many cries of No, no!—I shall satisfy those persons, whoever they may be, if they will shut their mouths and open their ears, I will carry conviction to their understandings.—(Laughter.)—Many used the words people and populace, without understanding their meaning, but these conveyed two ideas which were separate and distinct from each other by the eternal fiat of nature. I am now going to give the grounds of my opinion, and to show the truth to those individuals who choose to utter those silly sounds, that, although they may now be sitting on forms, they are standing on no grounds whatever.—(Laughter.)—But, first of all I may ask, as a preliminary question, shortly to be dismissed! Is it a self-evident truth that the greatest number of living persons ought to be considered as the only and proper majority in such a question as this?—(Hear.)—Whether is the question easy or difficult? I say it is pretty difficult—somewhat complicated—comprehending a vast number of considerations drawn from afar. I boldly ask of the twenty millions of human beings in Britain. How many are there whom the light of education has made capable of forming a judgment on this question? and how many of these are attending to their own duties, patiently tilling the bosom of the earth, or engaged in a thousand other honourable though humble occupations? I ask again, can they judge of the merits of this question—a question which has long divided the wisest and most enlightened amongst us!—(Cheers.) I say, therefore, let us know of whom we are speaking, and what we are demanding of them of whom we speak. Let us commence at the head and go down to the foot, and see wherein this imagined majority consists. Let us first of all speak of the House of Commons, where there is a majority for the measure—granted. And I say here that I attribute honourable and patriotic motives to every member whose opinion differs from my own. But is the whole House of Commons for the measure? Are they unanimous on this subject? No; there is a strong minority, a minority which, when I consider at that period—at what trouble and turbulent time the elections took place; while it leaves a majority for measures, leaves a glorious minority against them, which we know and which their enemies, instead of despising fear from the bottom of their hearts.—(Loud Cheers.) I speak next of an illustrious body of men, who, if our annals are written aright, have exhibited among them every species of heroic virtue—I speak of a body comprehending within themselves the bravest, the most intrepid among the sons of men—men who have scattered, like dust before the wind, the enemies of our country by land—and dispersed, like the mist before the morning sun, our enemies by sea, and have carried Britannia's thunder to save our avenue to the uttermost ends of the earth. (Great Cheering.) I speak of a body of men comprehending many whose acquirements had raised them up from a humble sphere to the proudest stations which genius could aspire to; comprehending many possessed of learning and erudition, which were acquired by severe toils than bowed down the tiller of the earth, which could only be attained by the midnight toil of many an hour devoted to study—these were generals, admirals, lawyers, and men devoted to liberal pursuits. I have alluded to such Peers as have before our eyes, and in these present times, raised themselves to be conspicuous objects in a nation's sight; but we must not forget the spirit of the ancient nobles of England, whose praises have lately been so loudly sounded by the friends of the people—as pure and spotless blood as ever flowed through the veins of the Russells and the Howards, warm the hearts of them who are against these measures, because they love and respect the liberty and Constitution of their country. Now I speak of the whole body;—I make no invidious distinction;—I speak of an illustrious order of men who would have been consumed by a nation's indignation had they passed the bill contrary to their conscience, had they done that very thing which the enemies of this country had called on them to do.—[Immense Cheering.]—There is another portion of society of whom I beg to say a few words. These are the Universities, the English and the Scottish Church. What I shall say of those institutions I shall speak guardedly; but how stand they affected to such measures as these? I may remark that there is no country in the world where education is so widely spread.—(Cheers.)—and we have every reason to be proud of ourselves—which we are at all times sufficiently disposed to be.—[Laughter.]—but is there a man present here who would venture to treat with scorn the intellect of the English Universities. [Cheers.] They were

not the mere receptacles for Whigs or Tories—no, there were political men of all parties; there flock the ingenious youth of England; there they are inspired by meditations on Milton, Newton, and Locke, and those great spirits who understood, some of them the whole mechanism of the external world, and others the mechanism of mankind,—and in what way the strength of Empires, and what would occasion their corruption and downfall.—[Cheers.] It would be coming too near home to speak of the Scottish Universities, humble as they are in their endowments, and more humble still, as God knows, in possessing such an individual as I am, I maintain that there the spirit of patriotism burns as bright as any where in the world. We are spoken of as retired monks, but for what reason I do not know—for I never wore a cowl—I mingle with the best of my fellow citizens, and I understand all the common duties of life as well as any one who ever walked over earth or trudged over the high roads for knowledge. Is it to be disposed of and put out of sight as unworthy of a thought, by men who have finished their education, perhaps without having been there, that the great seats of science, so far from being unanimous on the question, have amongst them against these an overwhelming and resistless majority.—[Cheers.]—These are classes of the people—in my sense of the word people—whose opinions are worthy of attention. The people do not consist of all the classes immediately below or above us; but there is a beautiful fusion of the whole. The meanest peasant that plants his foot on his native soil with the intrepid step of a brave man is entitled to claim kindred with a peer, nor will any petition from him be disregarded, if presented to the eye of Majesty itself.—[Cheers.]—I say this boldly—I love and admire the character of all ranks, and none more than the character of the labouring classes. Are we not entitled, in common fairness and common sense, to put this question, when they say all are against us: Are the Lords against us? Are the Universities against us? Are the men of retired habits, who have, by prudent assiduity and exertion, made competent fortunes, or who did not wish to take part in the arena of political contention—are those against us? And are there not at this moment a large portion of the intelligent and well informed public citizens of Edinburgh, but a part of a mighty multitude all over Scotland.—[Immense cheers.]—with us?—[Cheers.]—I have said enough to show that if we have a majority against us, it is not true that the nation is all against us. The nation could not be said to be unanimous, if a contrary opinion was entertained by one man, or the fraction of a man, even Mr. Place, the tailor, included.—[Cheers.]—I will now trust to that knowledge of you in which I hope I shall not be deceived—trusting to the liberality of your sentiments and the expansion of your mind. I will appeal to your sense of justice in a few words, relative to a class of men on whose heads have been heaped odium, disgraceful, surely, to those by whom it has been thrown, odium, which, however, as they ought, they have borne with meekness and magnanimity. We love and admire the simple and beautiful establishment of our own Church; we do not wish it changed or touched. We hope never to see the day when that edifice will be shaken; the foundations of which were cemented by the blood of martyrs.—[Loud Cheering.]—But I trust you are not deficient in sympathy for another establishment, founded on different principles, though noble and true to nature. I hope you will not look with an evil eye on the Church establishment of England, which is a richer country; and, therefore, possessing richer endowments. That Establishment has produced as many men of genius as ever have been placed in the brightest record of human intellect.—[Cheers.]—And I maintain there never was a time when there was so many men in it who have raised themselves by their scholarship from the humbler ranks. I have the honour of knowing many of them myself personally, and have seen them pursuing their noble career of academical instruction; and have so become familiar with their minds, that I challenge the production of an equal number of wise and good men of sound profession, either in learning or knowledge, to those pastors—those Bishops who have done their duty and will have their reward.—[Cheers.]—who have been so shamefully and calumniously vilified.—[Applause.]—One word more and I have done. Often have I heard it said and have my eyes loathed to see it written, that, we, of the great conservative party, are enemies of education, and have no love for what are called the lower orders—orders who, when their duties are nobly performed, are, in my humble estimation as high as that in which any human being can stand. [Cheers.] I repeat the calumny with virtuous scorn and indignation. I myself belong to no high family. My birth was that of a gentleman, but I had no patronage beyond what my honourable character gave me. Cheers. I have slept in the cottages of hundreds of the poor—I have sat by the cotter's ingle on the Saturday night, and seen the grey-haired patriarch with pleasure unfold the sacred page—the solace of his humble, but honourable life. I have even tried faintly to shadow forth the lights and shades of their character; and is it to be said that I belong to that class who hate and despise the people. I call God to witness, that may the beatings of my heart cease when I do so. But I now speak of the conservative party of the state—are they the cruel hard-fisted landlords? Do not they give as much any of the opposite party ever dream of giving in the way of reduction of rents; are not they the friends of their tenants? Is there any thing noble in the character of a British gentleman, to which they may not fairly lay claim? Are they not in the ancestral halls, while engaged in peaceful enjoyments or rural occupations, ever ready to lay down comforts and ease, and fly to serve their country, dying the sands of the seas with their blood.—(Loud Cheers.)—I therefore boldly claim for the conservative party, a sincere and zealous affection for the people. But let no man seek imperatively to impose on us his conviction as to the best means of promoting their happiness. Must I allow my understanding to be stormed by such arguments that the chief business of poor men is to attend to politics, or their best happiness to be found in elections? I know far better, that he has duties imposed on him by nature, and if his heart is right, and his head is clear, while he is not indifferent to such subjects, there are a hundred other duties he must perform far more important; he may be reading one book which tells him in what happiness consists, but to which I have seen but few allusions made by the reformers of modern times.—(Hear, hear, and cheering.)—In reading those weather stained pages on which

perhaps, the sun of Heaven had looked bright, while they had been unfaded or old on the hillside by his forefathers of the Covenant, when environed with peril and death—(Great Cheers.)—he is taught at once religion towards his Maker, and not to forget the love and duty he owes to mankind—to prefer deep interests, because eye-lasting, to those little turbulences which now agitate the surface of society, but which I hope will soon subside into a calm and leave the country as peaceful as before.—(Cheers.) I feel as certain as of my own existence of the enlightened loyalty of the conservative party, and of their attachment to the Constitution; they expect and glory in all ranks; they would not injure a hair on any poor man's head.—(Cheers.) We are not people to speak as falsely said, in holes and corners. Such conduct is abhorrent to our very nature—but we come boldly forth in the hearing of all the nation—and if these our sentiments are mean and contemptible, let them be torn into shreds and trampled under foot. But our sentiments are to fear God and honour the King, and bear good will and affection to all our brethren of mankind. If we are suspected of hollow heated hypocrisy, let the charge be made publicly against us. Here we are ready—some of us—I for one—to stand forward and repel all such charges with that peaceable but potent weapon—the pen—dipped in that most omnipotent of all fluids—ink—(laughter)—and let him say we fear inquiry who dares. We love the liberty of the press, and know how to use it, nor has the conservative party ever lacked either power or will to gain it credit and reputation. (Immense cheering.)

SPIRIT OF THE PROVINCIAL JOURNALS.

ST. JOHN.—A report has prevailed in town for some time past, that in a secret session of the Senate of the United States, the decision of the King of the Netherlands on the subject had been acknowledged and received by the General Government; and that Despatches to that effect had been received here by the American cutter Swiftsure, and forwarded to Head Quarters. Sufficient time has since elapsed for publication of the documents, but we are yet uninformed officially on the subject.

By the attention of a friend in England, we are enabled to lay before our readers the proceedings of a meeting of the Directors and Shareholders of the New Brunswick Company, recently held in Liverpool. The sanguine expectations that are entertained of the advantages to be derived from a speedy settlement and cultivation of the Waste Lands of this Province, by industrious labourers, must be evident to all; and we are of opinion that it only requires the active exertions of a few capitalists of the mother country in aid of the proposed undertaking, to bring into notice the valuable resources of this Province, and to raise it to its proper standard among His Majesty's foreign possessions, as a most desirable asylum for a large proportion of the destitute and suffering population of Great-Britain and Ireland.

ST. JOHN BR. COLONIST.—Colonel Wyer, &c. Captain Spearman.—After a lengthy enquiry, which ridiculed the character of certain witnesses, at the expense of a few hundreds to the Province; the arraigned parties were however, acquitted, and the story has turned out to be "much ado about nothing." Captain Spearman gave a very spirited and eloquent defence, and we understand he has expressed himself much gratified with the many, dignified, and independent conduct of the Honorable Speaker.

We find by the reports, that efforts have been made for the creation of a Bishop for this Province—may be a very useful thing, but if we are to pay the moderate price of £2000 a year, the whistle may be purchased too dearly. This does not seem to be the time for the creation of fresh officers and fresh expenses. We are poor, and Sir Howard has left us a legacy in the Government House and College, which will eat up the spare pence in our coffers. It is said the farmers are to be called upon for their Quit Rents; if these are to be appropriated for MITRAL purposes, it will other give our people some notion of a Tythe. His Holiness met with a cold reception in the house, and in spite of some of his CLOVEN TONGUED advocates was rejected by a majority of 41 save 40. Some of his loquacious public porters aptly referred to his Satanic Majesty for a reply.

FREDERICTON GAZETTE.—His Excellency has been pleased to accept the resignation of Captain William Abrams, of the Second Battalion of Northumberland Militia.

ST. JOHN OBSERVER.—It is reported, we hear, from unquestionable authority, that the Home Government of a bare has signified its assent to the proposition of the Assembly of this Province, embodied in a Petition to the King, at the close of the last Session, offering to pay the salaries of the Custom-House Officers throughout the Province, at the rates stated in a schedule annexed, amounting altogether to £4,250 sterling. We have been informed that the total amount of Custom House salaries upon the existing scale, exceeds £6,000, and learn that Government has in a spirit of true munificence, the