

dead were constantly supplied by fresh warriors from the deserts of Arabia, animated with the same wild fanaticism in the cause of their religion as that which eminently distinguished the military monks of the Temple.

On the 4th of May, after 33 days of constant fighting, the great tower, considered the key of the fortifications, and called by the Moslems the cursed tower, was thrown by the military engines. To increase the terror and distraction of the besieged, Sultan Khalil mounted 300 drummers, with their drums, upon as many dromedaries, and commanded them to make as much noise as possible whenever a general assault was ordered. From the 4th to the 14th of May the attacks were incessant. On the 15th the double wall was forced, and the King of Cyprus, panic stricken, fled in the night to his ships, and made sail for the island of Cyprus, with all his followers, and with near 3000 of the best men of the garrison. On the morrow the Saracens attacked the post he had deserted; they filled up the ditch with bodies of dead men and horses, piles of wood, stones and earth, and their trumpets then sounded to the assault. Ranged under the yellow banner of Mahomet, the Mamelooks forced the breach, and penetrated, sword in hand, to the very centre of the city; but their victorious career and insulting shouts were there stopped by the mail-clad knights of the Temple and the Hospital, who charged on horseback through the narrow streets, drove them back with immense carnage, and precipitated them headlong from the walls.

At sunrise the following morning the air resounded with the deafening noise of drums and trumpets, and the breach was carried and recovered several times, the military friars at last closing up the passage with their bodies, and presenting a wall of steel to the advance of the enemy. Loud appeals to God and to Mahomet, to heaven and the saints, were to be heard on all sides,—and after an obstinate engagement from sunrise to sunset, darkness put an end to the slaughter. On the third day (the 18th) the infidels made the final assault on the side next the gate of St. Anthony. The Grand Masters of the Temple and the Hospital fought side by side at the head of their knights, and for a time successfully resisted all the efforts of the enemy. They engaged hand to hand with the Mamelooks, and pressed like the meanest of the soldiers into the thickest of the battle. But as each knight fell under the keen simitars of the Moslems, there were none in reserve to supply his place, whilst the vast hordes of the infidels pressed on with untiring energy and perseverance. The Marshal of the Hospital fell covered with wounds, and William de Beaujeu, as a last resort, requested the Grand Master of that order to rally out of an adjoining gateway at the head of 500 horse and attack the enemy's rear. Immediately after the Grand Master of the Temple had given those orders he was himself struck down by the darts and arrows of the enemy; the panic stricken garrison fled to the port, and the infidels rushed out with tremendous shouts of *Allah acbar! Allah acbar!* ('God is victorious') Three hundred Templars, the sole survivors of their illustrious order in Acre, were now left alone to withstand the shock of the victorious Mamelooks. In a close and compact column they fought their way, accompanied by several Christian fugitives, to the Temple, they again bade defiance to the advancing foe.

The following morning very favorable terms were offered to the Templars by the victorious Sultan, and they agreed to evacuate the Temple on condition that a galley should be placed at their disposal, and that they should be allowed to retire in safety with the Christian fugitives under their protection, and to carry as much of their effects as each person could load himself with. The Mussulman conqueror pledged himself to the fulfilment of these conditions, and sent a standard to the Templars, which was mounted on one of the towers of the Temple. A guard of 300 Moslem soldiers, charged to see the articles of capitulation properly carried into effect, was afterwards admitted within the walls of the convent. Some Christian women of Acre, who had refused to quit their fathers, brothers, and husbands, the brave defenders of the place, were amongst the fugitives, and the Moslem soldiers attracted by their beauty, broke through all restraint, and violated the terms of the surrender. The enraged Templars closed and barricaded the gates of the Temple; they set upon the treacherous infidels and put every one of them 'from the greatest to the smallest,' to death. Immediately after this massacre the Moslem trumpets sounded to the assault, but the Templars successfully defended themselves until the next day (the 20th).—The Marshal of the Order and several of the order and several of the brethren were then deputed by Gaudini with a flag of truce to the Sultan, to explain the cause of the massacre of his guard. The enraged Monarch, however, had no sooner got them into his power than he ordered every one of them to be decapitated, and presided the siege with renewed vigor. In the night Gaudini, with a chosen band of his companions, collected together the treasure of the order and the ornaments of the church, and sallying out of a secret postern of the Temple which communicated with the harbor they got on board a small vessel, and escaped in safety to the Island of Cyprus. The residue

of the Templars retired into the large tower of the Temple, called 'The Tower of the master,' which they defended with desperate energy. The bravest of the Mamelooks were driven back in repeated assaults, and the little fortress was every where surrounded with heaps of the slain. The Sultan, at last, despairing of taking the place by assault, ordered it to be undermined. As the workmen advanced they propped the foundations with beams of wood, and when the excavation was completed, these wooden supports were consumed by fire; the huge tower then fell with a tremendous crash, and buried the brave Templars in its ruins.—The Sultan set fire to the town in four places, and the last stronghold of the Christian power in Palestine was speedily reduced to a smoking solitude.

Colonial.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

St. John Observer.

The Steamer Saxe Gotha, returned from Yarmouth on Sunday. A meeting was held at Yarmouth on Saturday last to take steps to induce Mr. Whitney to run a Steamer regularly to that port, or extend the communication to Halifax. We have not heard the result.—We understand that the Saxe Gotha will proceed on an experimental trip to Halifax to-morrow, June 1, touching at Brier Island, Yarmouth, Liverpool, Lunenburg, &c.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Halifax Times, May 31.

The Irish Society have presented to the Hon. Mr. Tobin, a splendid silver vase, upon his retirement from the Society in consequence of ill health, as a testimony of the high estimation and respect which they entertain for his person and character. The piece of plate was accompanied by a suitable address, to which was returned an appropriate reply.

Pictou Observer, May 31.

Trade of Pictou.—Upwards of 120 vessels have been entered at our Custom House since the opening of the navigation; without one arrival from Great Britain.

The Coal Trade.—From four to five thousand chaldrons of Coal have been shipped this season from the Albion Mines.

CANADA.

Quebec Gazette, May 20.

The labourers begin to feel the effects of the proposed alteration of the lumber duties. Instead of 3s. and 4s. and 5s., the usual day's wages at this season, they are reduced to 1s. 6d. and 2s. and many entirely out of employ. The markets too are bare, from the occupations of the country people at this season.

ORIGINAL.

SIR WILLIAM COLEBROOKE'S ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Editor,

The better to understand the measures of change which Sir William proposes, and to which I have already referred in my former letters, it will not be amiss here to enquire a little into the doctrines of those gentlemen, whom Sir William has chosen as the fit instruments for his purpose, and who have already given such hearty earnest of co-operation in this questionable design. Let Sir William's views be what they may, it must and ever will create suspicion in the minds of those who are to be the subjects of speculation, to have persons directing affairs, who cannot by their previous conduct lay claim to a very great share of consistency in public matters. I am not one of those who would advocate a stubborn and dogged adherence to any course of action in defiance of a more matured and better considered reflection; but I do confess myself chary in trusting too implicitly to such sudden conversions as would seem to have come over some of our public men. A well founded and disinterested regard to the public interest would seem to have a surer basis than is to be discovered in the ephemeral and selfish dogmas of the present day. Private advancement, personal aggrandizement, and honorary promotion, are so clearly the order under *Responsible Government*, that it calls to my recollection the following passage of a celebrated writer, viz.: "Men are naturally propense to corruption, and if he, whose will and interest is to corrupt them, be furnished with the means, he will never fail to do it. Power, honors, riches, and the pleasures that attend them, are the baits by which men are drawn to prefer a personal interest before the public good, and the number of

those who court them is so great, that he who abounds in them will be able to gain so many to his service as shall be sufficient to subdue the rest. It is hard to find a tyranny in the world that has not been introduced this way."

In 1833, when the Assembly deputed two of its own body (Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Simonds) to seek at the hands of the Colonial Minister a redress of their grievances, one of the most prominent of those grievances was—the *control which the Executive had over the public money*. This continued until 1837, when, as I shall shew by extracts from the reports of Messrs. Crane & Wilmot's delegation, it was most satisfactorily removed by the cession of all the Crown revenues in the Province to the disposal of the Assembly.

I will now refer to what I must consider the best possible authority for what I have here stated, viz.: a short extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Simonds, in 1833, in a debate upon the state of the Province. "There was a kind of distrust prevalent with respect to the present measures of the administration. It could not be denied, that there never was so much anxiety in the public mind as at the present moment, which proceeded from a distrust of the 'powers that be.' The great cause of this discontent was the impression which pervaded the minds of the people, that there was a great and habitual waste of the public money!" Now, Mr. Editor, do you think the present Executive know how *popular they are*? It is quite true that Mr. Simonds at the time he thus spoke, was not one of the Executive Council, and of course the people could not have the same confidence in that body as now. It might also be true that there was an impression abroad of a great and habitual waste of public money; but there is no room for impressions of late, for the sad reality stares us in the face that under the dictatorship of the Hon. Mr. Simonds in the Executive Council, and by the mild and beautiful workings of the *Responsible system*, the 'waste of public money' has not only 'been great and habitual', but unheard of in the annals of any British Colony, and odious in the extreme.

For example sake, I will refer to one circumstance which transpired by that most extraordinary of all extraordinary expositions of His Honor the Speaker last Session, about certain contingent monies, and it has ever been a matter of surprise, that no Editor in the Province has even noticed it, viz. that, in the prosecution for libel against the Editor of the Chronicle, that open attempt to break down the Press, and crush investigation or comment upon public matters and public men in this Province, Mr. Edmund Ward was paid out of those contingencies £25 to report the trial (to have been no doubt decided against the Editors), and persons unknown £136 3s. per costs of the same!! Liberty of the Press! Thou guardian of British freedom, when wilt thou hide thy diminished head from *Responsible persecution*?—But to proceed. One gentleman, who also in debate in 1833, denounced in the most indignant and patriotic terms, the idea of paying a Legislative Councillor, who was compelled to leave his home, and live at great expense in Fredericton, during every Session, is found in 1841 paying himself handsomely as an Executive Councillor, for a periodical visit to his dear friend and patron. I have heard it said that the Executive Council do not pay themselves, and that it is an act of the Home Government, but considering that their pay was put down amongst the expenses of collecting the gross amount of the *Casual and Territorial Revenue*, and reading the following words from the 4th Sec. of the Civil List Bill—"It shall and may be lawful for the Lieut. Governor, by and with the advice of his Executive Council, to expend out of the gross proceeds of the Casual Revenue, &c., such sums of money as they may deem necessary and requisite for the prudent management, protection and collection of the same." It would appear to have at least the semblance of paying one's self. Could any but a *Responsible Government* man, I ask, have distorted this paragraph into his own pocket, as one of the Executive Council? But here again, Mr. Editor, we have the wide difference, that in 1833, that gentleman was a plain Commoner, and in 1841 was, and still is, an Executive Councillor, promised no doubt the presidency of the Legislative Council, and anxiously looking for the dismissal of the Chief Justice from that body for the offence which I alluded to in my first communication.

In 1836 the same distrust which plain Mr. Simonds so well portrayed in 1833 remained still on the minds of the Representatives of the people, and another dele-

gation was sent to England in this year and also in 1837, consisting of Mr. Crane and Mr. L. A. Wilmot. These two gentlemen proceeded to discharge their duty at the enormous expense to the Province of £2867 12 6, besides the sum of £788 17 6, which was voted to Mr. Wilmot as remuneration for his services, in obtaining from the sleepy Minister of the Crown, the identical right which they now think would be in safer custody, in the hands of the Executive of the Province, than it is in that of the Representatives of the People! well done Responsible Government again! To shew that the initiating system, or the right to originate money grants should be vested in the Assembly, at least in the opinion of these delegates and of the Home Government, I quote from the joint reports of these gentlemen of 21st June 1836, and to July 1837—"We said (say they in the first report) it could not be disputed that the local legislature were much better qualified from their intimate knowledge of the wants of the country to expend the public money than Her Majesty's Government." Again—"Lord Glenelg distinctly assented to our position that the surplus revenues of the Province could be more judiciously and beneficially appropriated by the Legislature, than by and under the directions of the Government." Again—"We asked his Lordship in what way the right of appropriation by the Assembly was to be exercised. His Lordship answered that it was intended by the second qualification that after making provision for the Civil List the Assembly were to have the appropriation of the residue, if any, for public purposes." Again in the second Report—"We explained to his Lordship the mode adopted by the Council and Assembly in appropriating the public monies, and referred to our conversation with his Lordship in one of our interviews during the last summer. His Lordship observed that when he wrote the despatch of 31st August last, he intended that the system of government estimates should be introduced into the Assembly, but he was not at present at all disposed to disturb the established usage of the colony. That if the laws and customs of Parliament were introduced into the Province, the Assembly could at any time by address move the appropriation of some money not recommended by the Executive, and that therefore it would be of no real importance to make such a change; but his Lordship wished to learn whether there would be any objection to allowing the Lieut. Governor a consideration upon the resolutions of appropriations *separatim*, similar to that exercised by the Legislative Council under the present system. We answered that there would be very great objection to extending such a privilege to the Lieut. Governor, for it was already thought that as the Legislative Council were appointed by the Crown the Government had sufficient influence over the appropriations." Again—"Lord Glenelg then referred to our former conversation on the proposed change in the mode of appropriation, by allowing the Lieut. Governor a voice on each item, and observed, that as the present system worked well both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, he was not disposed to advise the introduction of any new mode. We answered—that we considered such a change by no means desirable, even on the part of the Crown, for if carried into practice, it would be a source of constant dissatisfaction and complaint to the public, while it would offer no real additional security to the Government." Is it not strange, Mr. Editor, that such doctrine, which in 1837 was considered sound and constitutional, should within the space of four short years, under the workings of Sir John Harvey's new and improved constitution, be found but the "baseless fabric of a vision"? Can it be that a system of Government under which our forefathers prospered, and our Province advanced in wealth with almost unparalleled rapidity; a system tested by 50 years trial, and approved by our parental government, is in itself so vicious and defective, as to require to be outright guillotined, that its mangled remains may be cut up by quack constitutionalists, and fashioned anew into some mongrel prodigy, freighted with interminable turmoil, discord, and taxation? No! No! Mr. Editor, it is not the good old ship of which we should complain, but the gross deviations of her helmsmen, and the modern method of pressing canvass when the gales of personal interest may fill the sail, and of double reefing whenever the public weal might be too much benefitted by a prosperous voyage. I have in my former letters attempted to shew how these evils arose, and will not at present further pursue the subject, but I