

as I may also do with which, in my opinion, they left undone at the last session; for ready as I am to give the meed of praise which their conduct during the session certainly deserves, yet I do not compromise the privilege of thinking that they stopped short of the mark; but of that anon. In this review of *state affairs*, it will be a matter of no little curiosity to trace through the changing shades of political meandering some few of our public characters. One of the greatest poets of classic times libelled the ladies in saying that they were ever fickle and uncertain; but how truly might we apply this doctrine to the vagaries of our modernized and responsible *Lords* of the creation. The chameleon phases and refracting obliquities of some of our *Constitution builders*, unquestionably afford matter to amuse if not astonish reflecting minds. In the brief period of four years, behold them not only the red hot supporters of the people's right to vote their own money, but the clamorous advocates to get under their control, as *Representatives of the people*, the Casual Revenues of the Crown; and when forsooth, as such Representatives, they have revelled in the golden fields of unrestrained profusion, *themselves not forgotten*, and have wantonly squandered all, and in doing so have either purchased, or hope to do so, the mantle of government influence, and become dispensers of the Crown's patronage, they discover that the people's representatives are not fit to be trusted with the people's money, but that as a part and parcel of the Executive Government of the Province, they are the only and proper judges how that money should be expended! It is of too recent date to require that I should more than advert to the state of affairs when Sir Wm. Colebrooke came into the Province. It cannot be denied that a Provincial debt created in some measure by the *harmony* which, unfortunately for the people, characterized the late administration, was beginning to be brought palpably to light by the universal pressure of the times, and by mercantile embarrassments. And it must also be conceded that a general dissatisfaction at the proceedings of the Assembly stalked throughout our Province. It was this dissatisfaction, neither concealed nor denied which, as it will ever do when openly expressed, struck at the root of some of the abuses which under the *Harmony Administration* had crept into our constitution. It will not be useless, Mr. Editor, to set forth in this place the practical workings of that administration, in order to the better understanding of the fitness of the remedies proposed by the present one, especially as the prime movers in both were the same.

Sir John Harvey having, upon his assumption of the Government, razed the Executive Council of his predecessor, he nominated an almost entirely new one, and in order to secure the voice of the Assembly, he appointed several of its most influential members to his Council. This appointment had in its favor *novelty and change*, but to say the least of it I fear it will prove of very questionable utility, if any conclusion can be drawn from the first fruits of such a scheme. I indeed attribute to this step most of the evils under which this Colony now labors, and I will give my reasons. The Lieut. Governor, by thus signally elevating to Crown place and patronage, gentlemen Commoners, of course secured to himself (under the *Circular Memorandum*) their firm and full support. That this support should be effective, and in part a return for the gracious consideration of His Excellency, these Privy Councillors determined to secure a majority in the Assembly, ready at all times to carry all such measures as were consonant to their own and their patron's wishes. How, it will be asked, was this accomplished? Why thus:—Members of the Assembly were appointed by the Executive (Executive of course means His Excellency, and His Excellency's Council, cemented by the Russell Pill), to *Supervisorships*, and other lucrative situations, and thus by the ties of common gratitude these members naturally saw things in the same light as their *new masters*. In the even course of this smooth stream, events flowed on almost unquestioned for four happy years, policy and interest inducing the Assembly, under this Executive tutelage, to vote large sums upon the roads, whereby enquiry into the machinery of government was stifled, and probably never would have been aroused had not the public money run short, and the fortunate removal of Sir John broken up the secret conclave. This inroad upon *harmony* did not however occur before the same Executive influence obtained the sum of £2000 sterling, as extra salary during his official residence, and upon his departure £1500 sterling, of that very money which is now thought to be misplaced in the hands of the independent representatives of the people, as a mark of personal regard to him, who as *Patron in Chief* had matured a system so peculiarly beneficial to the interests of this Province, and which, as *Speaker of the Assembly*, one of that same Executive Council so warmly eulogized in his last address to Sir John. The Journals of 1841 will shew this precious document in full. 'Tis amusing, Mr. Editor, to read this speech, and now to hear from the same personage that all was wrong

thus briefly, and I hope correctly, given an outline of some of the excrescences upon our good old constitution, which modera corruption has engendered, and to remove which certain empiricks would now destroy the whole fabric to build up some phantasm of primitive idealty without 'a local habitation or a name.' Why, Mr. Editor, I ask, is it now for the first time discovered by these quondam men of the people, that our Constitution is rotten and unconstitutional? May it not be for some such reason as this? When the voice of public opinion, goaded on to open expression by the development of four years jobbing, broke upon the senses of the Executive Council, and tolled the knell of their balmy patronage through the people's representatives, it behoved them to cast about for some other plan to gull the public, and keep within their own grasp that arm of power, the purse strings. In the consultation which ensued, (be it here recorded to their credit) two members resigned their seats at the Council board, and to the following unguarded soliloquy of one who remained behind, we are indebted for a little insight into their determination. This PATRIARCH of PATRIOTS was thus heard in a mood of deep abstraction to commune with himself—'It is quite clear that I cannot longer be the favored of the Governor, and the favorite of the people. The sweets of office and of ministerial dictation I have too long enjoyed, and too fondly cherished, now to be resigned without a struggle. It must not be. I have it. My influence in the Assembly as once its leader, and formerly the people's pet, I can yet rely on to some extent, gratitude and fear will each operate upon my compatriots. The influence naturally incident to my situation as Executive Councillor and dispenser of the Crown's patronage, must have its weight. This I will do. I will denounce the practice of the Assembly initiating money grants as unconstitutional, and as the fruitful source of all the profuse extravagance of the past years of my *premiership*, and will avow my earliest conviction ever to have been that such right should vest in the *Executive*. I will advocate the estimates to be sent down by the Governor and his Executive Council. I will convince the people that by this saving change of purse bearer to them, I as one of the Executive Council will be quite the person to expend their money, whilst as one of their representatives, I am not trust worthy in the matter. I will destroy the constitution of the Province as one bad in itself, because evils have arisen from abuses which I have been mainly instrumental in producing!' How much further the hon. gentleman would have disclosed the secrets of this plot upon the rights and liberties of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province, my informant could not say, his reverie being broken, he became to all appearance the same plausible patriot as ever. But subsequent events have proved that so far as the plan has thus promulged, it has been attempted to be fully carried out. Much as I was astonished to hear this, I do admit myself, Mr. Editor, as completely surprised to find that a certain other gentleman, one who as the champion of the people, had *cornered* Lord Glenelg, and for such services had subsequently basked in the sunshine of popular applause, not unguided by some of the *spoils* of his triumph, has also expressed himself willing as one of the *Representatives of the people*, and now that those spoils are so well disposed of, to yield the right of and privilege of originating money grants into the *safer* keeping of the Executive of the Province!! Does he expect to be as handsomely paid by the Executive for this act of generous concession, as one of the people's representatives, to the Crown, as he has already been by the Assembly for wresting from the cornered Minister the same privilege for the people? He could not have been made aware that he has been recommended to a seat at that Council board—he is too conscientious to accept a responsibility as an Executive Councillor which he felt to be too onerous as a Representative of the people.

Mr. Editor, I have extended this letter so far that I must postpone the consideration of the Lieutenant Governor's *Measures* to my next; and in the mean time I hope that the Road Bill, the Prison Bill, the Board of Works Bill, and the Municipal Corporation Bill, which have been extensively circulated throughout the Province, may be carefully perused by those who take the trouble to read those letters, that they may judge of the correctness of my deductions.

A TAX PAYER.

May 21, 1842.

To the Editor of the Miramichi Gleaner—
FREDERICTON, N. B., May 13, 1842.
SIR,—Being this day apprized by a friend, that you have given insertion in one of your recent numbers of the Gleaner, to a paragraph concerning the *Restigouche Indians*, similar in its tendency to those published by Mr. Moses Perley in the St. John Courier, of date the 24th, and Fredericton Sentinel of the 29th ult.—I appeal to you on the broad principle of justice, not to deny me the means of vindicating myself and the Mission with which my name stands so intimately associated, from the calum-

Paper, (in common with others,) has been, I am satisfied, the most unintentional vehicle.

I send you herewith the copy of a letter which I addressed to the Editor of the St. John Courier, on first noticing the attacks in question, and shall feel much obliged, by your kindly giving it a place in your columns of Tuesday next.

I remain, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
H. D. O'HALLORAN.

"THE RESTIGOUCHE INDIANS."
To the Editor of the St. John Courier.
FREDERICTON, May 2, 1842.

SIR,—You will have received from a friend of mine at St. John (to whose care it has been entrusted (a letter for publication bearing my name; which letter, in consequence of a request made to me from a highly respected quarter, I am induced for 'the present' to suppress. It related to Mr. Moses Perley; and has been drawn forth by the paragraph in your paper of date the 24th ult., headed 'The Indians.'

I give you credit for too much benevolence of mind and heart, to entertain for a moment the opinion, that you would of your own spontaneous accord, endeavour to prejudice the Provincial, or Home Government, against this friendless and unhappy race. I will do you the justice to believe, that the remarks in question, came not from your own pen, and that you were induced to publish them at the request of a party, on whose 'sources of information and integrity of purpose,' you thought you might rely.

How could you indeed question the Official accuracy of the one, or the unimpeachable character of the other, seeing as regards the first, that your informant, (Mr. Perley) being an Indian Commissioner must know something of Indian matters; and secondly, being a Chief, the purest and most maternal motives could alone actuate him. Notwithstanding, however the double guarantee thus afforded you of the correctness of the matter published, I beg to pronounce concerning it, that it is equally characterized by malice and falsehood.

There is the falsehood of suppression of fact—the falsehood of violation—and the falsehood of perversion—each, and all of which I shall be prepared to prove under their distinctive heads, whenever called upon to do so—Indices such as these, combined with other circumstances which I am about to mention, could leave no doubt on my mind as to the respectable source, from whence the paragraph came. Those who know Mr. Moses Perley—those who have had experience like myself of his busy intermeddling spirit—will have been as quick in detecting his handy-work as I have been, and in divining also his secret springs of action; but to those who do not, the question will naturally arise, what motive could Mr. Perley possibly have, for publishing unjust and harsh opinions of the Restigouche Mission—why simply this—he is the *rejected* of Restigouche—the *would be*, but *nonelected* CHIEF of that place.—He tried hard through his New Brunswick satellites and friends, to influence the Micmac Tribes of that section of Lower Canada, to appoint him their 'Grand White Chief,' as those at Miramichi had previously done, and failed. The Canada Indians were too wise and cautious to take a pig in a poke. They wanted to know something of Mr. Moses Perley before they chose him—to test not only his abilities, but his character—and the knowledge which he afforded them, previous to quitting the settlement, was so *credible and satisfactory*, as to place the question of his chieftainship (for that time at least) at rest. Some weeks after Mr. Perley's departure, I took up my abode at the Restigouche, in furtherance of his Excellency's views, for enquiring into, and ameliorating the condition of the Indians—lived entirely amongst them, and became Grand Chief myself, to the utter extinction of Mr. Perley's hopes on this subject. Hence then, his unmanly persecutions of these poor Indians through the medium of the press,—a weapon which he well knows they cannot wield in retaliation, or even in vindication—hence his desire also to throw discredit on my efforts in their behalf—but if the Indians may be reviled and degraded with impunity, Mr. Moses Perley mistakes his power as Lord High Commissioner in supposing that I will allow him, or a *ship load like him*, to interfere with, and misrepresent what concerns me. His jealous apprehension of my rendering myself *useful* to the Government, and thereby depriving him of some share of his hoped-for *exclusive* laurels, betrayed itself at a very early period of our joint mission; and I am well aware of his underhanded efforts in more ways than one, since his return from that mission, to do me injury—but to return to the Indians. What on earth has Mr. Perley to do with the affairs of the Restigouche? He is neither Chief nor Commissioner there. What on earth has he to do with Captain O'Halloran's efforts through the Home Government to benefit these poor people? Can he not eat his own bread and butter, and let others do the same without molestation? No—the busy, the intermeddling Mr. Commissioner Perley must needs put his finger into every dish within his reach, and if his fingers do not get well scalded

his future guidance, it will not be owing I can assure him, to any want of *caustic* property in the contents of the Indian kettle, which he has revengefully kicked over (merely because he was not permitted to superintend the cooking of it), but owing to his own well-practised arts of evasion.

I again repeat, that the paragraphs published by him in the Saint John Courier of the 24th, and Fredericton Sentinel of the 29th ult, relative to the Indians, and which, with all his plausibility and impudence he did not dare to publish under his own name, are materially false in their details, and altogether *malicious* in their ends. He has artfully given to the whole character, objects, proceedings, and results of the Mission, a *colour* which he knew to be cruelly and atrociously unjust—hoping of course that it would reach Lord Stanley's eye, to inspire his Lordship with disgust, and taking care I have no doubt that it should do so—but I now beg to inform him that if either of the paragraphs to which I have adverted, falls under the observation of the Home Government to the prejudice of my deeply injured Micmac friends—if the said paragraphs appear in the columns of but one English Newspaper—I will in that case deem myself absolved of my most reluctant promise, and exhibit Mr. Moses Perley to the Province, and to the world, in his *true and scandalous* colours.

I remain, Sir
Your very obedient Servant,
H. D. O'HALLORAN.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:
TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1842.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

The Courier with the Southern mail arrived on Saturday morning at 6 o'clock.

** Our supply of paper, which for a series of years, has been obtained here direct from Britain, has been forwarded to Halifax, in consequence of the vessel—an old trader—intending to load this season at another port. This occasioned an unforeseen delay, and our stock run short. We could not obtain any in the place, and consequently were unable to issue a Gleaner last week.

To the kindness of the Queen's printer at Fredericton, we are indebted for a few reams, but of a smaller size, on which we publish to day. After a lapse of a week or two, we are in hopes to be enabled to resume our usual dimensions—in the meantime we crave the indulgence of our readers.

THE SEASON.

It is certainly a matter of great gratulation, in this period of unparalleled commercial embarrassment, and consequently of suffering among the working class of our population, that we have been blessed by an all-wise, and benevolent Providence, with one of the finest seasons for the business of the country, and particularly for the labours of the husbandman, we have ever witnessed. It is also very satisfactory to perceive that every patch of ground, many of which have laid unworked and neglected for years, is now being placed under tillage; and should the season continue as auspicious as it has commenced, Northumberland will not have to depend, as she has too long done, on her neighbours, for a large portion of the necessaries of life.

UNITED STATES.

ALL the American Press that we have seen, concur in stating, that the mission of Lord Ashburton, is likely to result in a final settlement of the various subjects in dispute between the two Governments. That it may be so, we fervently wish, a sentiment which will be responded to by every lover of his country, be he British or American.

Mr. Webster, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent letters to the Governors of Maine and Massachusetts, on the subject of the North Eastern Boundary, wherein he states—

'It seems to have been understood on both sides, that one arbitration having failed, it was the duty of both parties to proceed to institute another, according to the spirit of the Treaty of Ghent, and other treaties; and the President has felt it to be his duty, unless some new course should be proposed, to cause the negotiation to be resumed, and pressed to its conclusion. But I have now to inform your Excellency, that Lord Ashburton, a Minister Plenipotentiary and Special has arrived at the seat of Government of the United States, charged with full powers from his sovereign to negotiate and settle the different matters in discussion between the two Governments. I have further to state to you, that he has officially announced to this Department, that in regard to the Boundary question, he has authority to treat for a conventional line, or line by agreement, on such terms and conditions, and with such mutual considerations and equivalents, as may be thought just and equitable; and that he is ready to enter upon a negotiation for such conventional line, so soon as this Government shall say that it is authorized and ready on its part, to commence such negotiation.

Under these circumstances, the President has felt it to be his duty to call the serious attention of the Governments of Maine and Massachusetts to the subject, and to submit to those Governments the propriety of