

the cross. But faith builds in the dungeon and the lazar house its sublimest shrines, and through-roofs of stone, that shut out the eyes of heaven, ascends the ladder where the angels glide to and fro—prayer.

THE ATHEIST.

A contrast.—And there, in the very cell beside her own the atheist, Nicot, sits stolid amidst the darkness, and hugs the thought of Danton, that death is nothingness. His is no spectacle of an appalled or perturbed conscience. Remorse is the echo of a lost virtue, and virtue he never knew. Had he to live again, he would live the same. But more terrible than the death bed of a believing despairing sinner, that blank of apathy—that contemplation of the worm and the rat of the charnel house—that grim and loathsome nothingness which, for his eye, falls like a pall over the universe of life. Still staring into space, gnawing his livid lip, he looks upon the darkness, convinced that darkness is for ever and for ever.

A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MOTHER.

She thus sat, unconscious of the future. Still half a child herself, her child laughing in her laughter—two soft triflers on the brink of the grave. Over her throat fell, as she bent, like a golden cloud, her redundant hair; it covered her treasure like a veil of light, and the child's little hands put it aside from time to time, to smile through the parted tresses, and then to cover its face, and peep and smile again. It were cruel to damp that joy, more cruel still to share it.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY.

[The London Sun, from which we copy the following article, has been transmitted by the Highland Society of London to the Secretaries of the Highland North British Society here, and by them obligingly handed to us.]

The London Branch of this excellent institution, met at the Freemason's Tavern on Monday night, to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria, in which so many brave Highlanders fell, and among the rest the gallant Abercromby.

The Duke of Cambridge was to have taken the chair, but owing to the melancholy death of the Earl of Munster, the son of his late Majesty, His Royal Highness did not attend.

The chair was taken by the Chisholm. About a hundred members sat down to dinner, and among them the following officers of the army and navy—General Lemesurier, Sir James M'Gregor, Lieut. General Boyd Reynardston, Sr L. Grant Colonel Jolliffe, Captains Kelly, RN. Lloyd, Colonels Bouchier and Maclean.

Some of these gallant officers were present at that great battle in which one of the best of Bonaparte's Generals was defeated, and which contributed in no small degree to inspire the British army with that courage which finally drove back the French from all their strong holds in every part of the continent, and brought an army of one million of men into the heart of France.

Grace was said in Gaelic by the Rev. John Lees, chaplain to the society. The dinner and wines were excellent.

The chairman in announcing the first toast, expressed his deep regret at the fatal occurrence which had placed him in the chair, and which had prevented the Duke of Cambridge from presiding, as he had up to that moment intended. He then gave The Queen, which was received with hearty applause.

The next toast was The Lord of the Isles, (the Prince of Wales); and that was followed by Prince Albert, both of which were duly honored in the highland style.

The chairman in an appropriate speech then gave The Royal Family, and said, though Highlanders had in 1715 and 1746, shed their blood in opposition to the present reigning family, and though one of his ancestors had died on the field of Culloden, in opposition to the House of Brunswick, still all must admit that those deeds were only proofs of loyalty, and that when the old family were extinct, the Highlanders only adhered to their ancient fealty, and did homage to the reigning Sovereign, because they were faithful to their original principles. He would therefore give The Royal Family, and begged to join with that an illustrious Lady, remarkable not more for her wealth than for the generous use she made of it. The Queen Dowager. (cheers.)

The next toast was The Earl of Inverness (the Duke of Sussex) which was succeeded by a dance, performed by four of the Society in excellent style.

In proposing the health of the Duke of Cambridge, the chairman read a note from his Royal Highness's Secretary, expressing his deep regret, that owing to an unfortunate event which had occurred the previous evening, he could not do himself the honour of presiding at the meeting. The toast was duly honored.

Sir James M'Gregor then gave the health of the Chisholm, the chairman, which was responded to in true Highland accent and gesture, the whole assembly rising up and standing with one foot on the table in honor of the Gallant chieftain.

Six Pipers belonging to the 72d regiment entered the hall, and marched round for some time, playing Highland airs.

The chairman in returning thanks, said he was proud in being identified with the Highland Society, not from personal but national pride. The highland name was known under every clime and the emblems of the country had contributed in no small degree to keep up the national courage, and lead on the British troops to victory. The spirit of the Highlander might be embodied in these words—He never turned his back upon a foe in arms, nor a friend in adversity. (Loud cheers.) Highlanders were to be found in every quarter of the globe—in the cold regions of North America, under the torrid zone of India, and the wild plains of Australia. As soldiers they had long done honor to their country, and to that flag which had braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze. In whatever clime they lived, they never forgot their country. In battle as well as in the domestic occupations of domestic life, abroad and at home, they never forgot the noble deeds of their fathers, or disgraced the name they inherited. (Loud cheers.)

Miss Hawes, who volunteered her services on the occasion, then presented herself in the gallery, and sung a Scotch air with great spirit and taste. She was loudly applauded.

The chairman in proposing the next toast, briefly adverted to the gallant deeds of our soldiers and sailors on the coast of Syria, and expressed his sorrow for the reverses sustained in Afghanistan an indignity he said, which would soon be wiped off. He gave—The Army and Navy.

The next toast given by the chairman was The Memory of their brave Soldiers who fell at Alexandria on the 21st March. The toast was drunk in solemn silence.

A number of other toasts were given in the course of the evening, and among them the Health of the Duke of Wellington, which was received with great applause.

ORIGINAL.

MR. EDITOR,

Many of your readers have doubtless been favored with the Penny Newspapers, published at Saint John, which are circulated through the Province gratuitously, for what particular object I am at a loss to understand, unless to produce agitation and dissatisfaction in the country, and endeavour to make the people believe that under the protecting care of the Parent State, they have enjoyed but little of rational liberty. The writers in those papers calumniate the opponents of the various measures submitted by the Lieut. Governor to the Legislature at the last Session, which had a tendency, as they allege, of investing the people with privileges which they have not hitherto enjoyed: and as a consequence, the prerogative of the Crown would be diminished, in proportion as the rights of the people were extended. This is a very specious argument to advance, and suit their views; but before all these measures are adopted, and the contemplated changes effected, it would be well for the people fully to consider, and understand them in all their bearings, to ascertain the benefits to be derived, and whether something is not expected in return for the boon thus offered. When the Lieut. Governor submitted his measures to the House of Assembly, to be examined, supported or rejected, he doubtless did it under a conviction that they would be beneficial to the people of this Province, and I most willingly impart to him, that he had no other object in view than to promote the welfare of those, over whom he was appointed to govern. But while I give His Excellency credit for the sincerity of his motives, I claim the same correct feelings for those who have opposed his measures. It is not often that I write for the Press; I dislike seeing measures supported by imputing the most unworthy motives to those who are opposed to them, it causes a belief that there is something more behind the curtain than meets the public eye. Every person in the Province is interested in its Laws and Institutions; and whatever changes may be made, whether for evil or good, will remain long after the heat

of the government may cease to occupy the station he now fills, if therefore the measures be beneficial. His Excellency has discharged his duty; if evil consequences flow from them, those who remain in the Province will feel their effects. Hence I feel it to be the duty of all who have an interest in the country, carefully to examine all those measures, and not allow themselves to be led away by misrepresentation.

The various and leading measures of the Executive, are the Municipal Corporation Bill, Board of Works Bill, the Road Bill, and last, tho' not least, the surrender by the House of Assembly to the Executive Government the right of Initiating all Money Grants. The Bills have been circulated through the country, for the purpose of affording information to the public, in order that the people may be apprised of the advantages to be derived from them; and as in all probability an Election will take place, during the next summer, the electors will have an opportunity of returning such persons who are favourable to them, or rejecting those who may be opposed to them. The Municipal Corporation Bill is the only measure of the Executive that passed the House, and upon which the House were equally divided, two members, said to be adverse to the Bill, were absent. What amendments were made to the Bill in the House of Assembly, I am at a loss to know, but judging from the debates in the Legislative Council, as reported in the Sentinel, I suppose the Bill underwent an almost entire change. The hon. John Robertson, who opposed the Bill, in a speech worthy of being read, observes: 'The Bill which had been sent up by the Lower House, would be found on comparing it with the printed copy, to be nothing more than the mutilated remains of the original document; and looking over it he could trace no resemblance, except at the beginning and the end.' I have carefully examined the printed Bill, and am at a loss to discover the great advantages it gives to the people, beyond the power of allowing the Council to be elected by them, to impose taxation to an almost unlimited extent. It gives to the Crown the patronage of appointing the Warden and County Clerk. These officers must necessarily be paid; the Councillors must be paid, altho' there is a section in the Bill to the contrary, they could hardly be expected to attend four weeks in the year without pay, any more than the members of Assembly. The County Surveyor, County Auditors, and many other Officers will have to be paid. For these Salaries, for the Improvement of the Roads, Bridges, Schools, School Houses, they may tax the County; in short, for every expense the County Council may incur. The Poor will have to be provided for the same as now. The expenses attending the administration of justice in the County, will have to be provided for by the County Councils, the same as at the present time. View these Corporations in any way you choose, expense to the County will be the result, and direct taxation must consequently follow. As to their appointing Town and Parish Officers instead of the Sessions, as is now the case, if it be desirable to vest that power directly in the people of their respective Parishes, it may be easily done by a short enactment, authorizing the Town Clerk to hold an Election for the different Parish Officers, it would thus be cheaply done, and the power at once given to the people instead of individually, through the contemplated County Councils. The Elections for County Councillors would be attended with expense, and at these annual elections, it is much to be feared the feelings, common at elections, would be excited, and a struggle for the ascendancy. In a word, the benefits would be problematical—the expense and taxation would be certain. The Bill does not make it imperative upon Counties to incorporate, and therefore, say its advocates, it is all left to the free will of the people; two-thirds must apply by petition to the Governor, before they can get a charter, and the petition and names must be published, and the Counties need not take unless they want it. This is rather a specious argument. But I differ altogether from them in this respect: it is the worse feature in the measure. When the Government send forth a measure which they conceive calculated to benefit the Country, why make it optional? It ought to be like all other laws, imperative to be acted upon; but it speaks in words that cannot be misunderstood, that there are doubts about its being acceptable to the country, and might not take so well with the House; and if it is to be so salutary in its operation, why put the inhabitants of

the several Counties to the trouble of petitioning, and the expense of a charter. This petitioning will have a tendency to produce no good; there will be petitions for the charter, and petitions against—bad feelings will be created, and some time will elapse before it will subside—all classes will be called upon to sign petitions one way or the other; and thus this peaceful and happy Colony, would be disturbed from one end to the other. That such an apple of discord should be recommended by the government is certainly most surprising. It is well that this measure was rejected, and most sincerely do I hope that the country will see, what must necessarily follow from the passing of such an Act, for if the Bill had passed, and the Counties did not incorporate, the Road Bill was contemplated to compel the Statute Labour to be commuted, and paid in money to the County Treasurer, and by him paid once semi-annually to the Board of Works, to be expended by that body. The Road Bill, and Board of Works, were rejected. It is easy to stir up, but very difficult to allay, agitation; and this happy and contented Province may be distracted and disturbed by the agitation of these measures for years to come. Surely these measures will not be further urged by His Excellency,—the inhabitants of this Province desire them not. Let the people carefully examine this measure, they will find that if adopted it will make them pay taxes to an alarming extent, and eventually to compel them to make, and keep up, their Roads and Bridges, their Schools, (which are now to a certain extent provided for out of the Provincial Revenue) by taxation in a direct form. It has been urged that this measure is only introducing British institutions into the Province, but I beg to be informed what County in England has its County Council, similar, or bearing a resemblance to what is proposed to be here introduced. True it is that there are tithings and hundreds in England, but what was their origin; King Alfred, it is said, established them, but he instituted the tithings to prevent the rapines and disorders which formerly prevailed in the realm; they were composed of ten Freeholders, and their families, who dwelt together, and were sureties or free pledges to the King for the good behaviour of each, and therefore antiently no man was suffered to abide in England above forty days, unless he enrolled himself in some tithing. It was more like restraint than freedom. The institutions of the Province are known and understood, and are far from being burdensome, and where is the necessity of change.

The introduction of Municipal Corporations, or District Councils in Canada has only been of recent date, their utility is not yet made apparent. In what was Lower Canada, they do not succeed at all. Our neighbours on the other side of the Bay de Chaleur would rather dispense with them,—they too plainly see taxation involved beyond their means. In Upper Canada, some have succeeded, others not. The 'Cobourg Star' thus speaks of our Municipal Bill, 'We perceive that a Bill for the introduction of Municipal Councils in New Brunswick, was passed in the House of Assembly, by the casting vote of The Speaker, but its consideration was postponed by the Legislative Council till next Session. The clearer the Colonies not yet inflicted with this measure, steer of it, the better it will be for their prosperity, peace, and good government; but here, with every inclination to give the Bill a fair trial, it has signally and acknowledgedly failed, and in its next Session, even its god-fathers will be among the first to call for some alterations, and amendments.' So that even in Upper Canada, the measure has not been found to answer, and it would be well for this Province, to pause ere they adopted any new measure, however beautiful in theory, or however high the authority, from whence it might emanate. It is impossible that any man, however distinguished for his talents, or his knowledge of the world can in a few months make himself sufficiently acquainted with the institutions growing up with the Colony, and produce measures effecting an almost entire change, suitable to the wants and feelings of the people.

The inhabitants of this Province are not behind any of their fellow subjects in loyalty, intelligence and enterprize; they are unwilling to adopt any changes for the mere purpose of change, believing that all change is not reform.

FRANK.

April 23, 1842.