

priation of money in the House of Assembly; and with the view of keeping the expenditure within due bounds, I should be agreeable to the passing of a Legislative Enactment, vesting in the Executive the power of fixing the total amount to be expended yearly. I should be disposed, however, to reserve for the House the right of deciding the particular objects in which that amount should be laid out. I have always been favorable to the establishment of an efficient Board for Auditing the Public accounts. With regard to the other measures recommended to the Legislature by the Executive during last Session, I shall be happy to be favored with your opinion in respect to them. My past conduct, Gentlemen, must be my guarantee for the future, and should it please you to place me again in the honorable and responsible situation of one of your Representatives, I will, on all occasions, strive to serve you faithfully, according to the best of my ability.

Mr Street addressed the Freeholders nearly as follows—
Gentlemen Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

In presenting myself before you for the fourth time, as a Candidate for your suffrages in the representation of this County, I beg to assure you that I am actuated by what I trust is a laudable ambition—to be serviceable to my country—and from a conviction in my own mind, that during the Ten years I have had the honor of being in the Legislature, my humble efforts to promote the prosperity and improvement of the Province, and of this County in particular, have not been unavailing, and the sacred trusts you have on former occasions reposed in me, have never been betrayed. Gentlemen, I do not pretend to perfection—that is out of the question—but I do pretend to an honest, independent, zealous and faithful discharge of my duty; and if I have in any instance erred, it has been the error of judgment, not of intention. When I, in the winter of 1833, came forward as a Candidate for your suffrages, I told you that while I should never lose sight of the commercial interest, I should ever feel it my particular duty to promote the Agriculture and Internal Improvement of the County, and I thought the best encouragement that could be given to the farmer, was opening up and improving the Roads of the county, and affording to the poor settler an easy communication with the market towns. Gentlemen, I was led to this from knowing that the commercial interest was well represented and cared for in my able and experienced colleague, and I felt, that altho' a lawyer of some standing, I was an extensive agriculturalist, and had done as much in that way as almost any man in the county. Gentlemen, I ask you if I have not redeemed those pledges beyond your expectation? The best way, however, to determine that question is to contrast the present state of the internal improvement of the county with what it was when I first entered the House in 1833.

Gentlemen, much has been said against the late House of Assembly, in consequence of the provincial debt; and the depressed state of the Province in a commercial point of view; and they have been accused of squandering away the public monies. That some improvident grants have been made, cannot be denied, against many of which I have raised my humble voice. These improvident grants are, however, not the cause of our present difficulties—although they may have tended in some degree to diminish our finances—our monetary difficulties in the Revenue of the Province arise from a variety of causes. I will enumerate the principal ones, viz:

1st—The border collisions about the Boundary question gave rise to a large expenditure of the public money.

2nd—The large appropriations for the Road service, and the improvement of the Navigation of the Rivers, and other matters in connection with the Internal Improvement of the Province, and the people's wants.

3rd—The enormous expense of the Boards of Health in the province. In this place alone, the expenses for the year 1840 of the Board of Health, amounted to the enormous sum of between £400 and £500, if my memory serve me rightly.

4th—The calamitous Fires in the city of St. John, which have led to an immense amount of duties being returned, besides several large grants to alleviate the consequent privations of the sufferers,—some hundreds of persons were supplied in this way the last winter in St. John—besides a large loan to the city to enable them to erect their houses of more permanent material.

5th—The loan to build a Custom and Warehouse in the city of St. John.

6th—The non-collection of Crown dues to a very heavy amount, to collect which just now would be ruinous to the country.

7th—The injudicious manner in which our money grants are initiated in the House of Assembly, and which, although of long continuance, has been at length found productive of great evil, and has led to many very improper and useless grants.

8th—The falling off, during the present and preceding year, in the Revenues of the Province, as well in the ordinary as in the casual and Territorial, owing to an unprecedented depression in the Trade and Shipping interest both here and in the old country, which have brought down so many enterprising and valuable commercial establishments on this and the other side of the Atlantic, caused in a

great measure by over Trading and speculations upon false capital—I mean upon Bank accommodation. These failures and depressions in Trade have doubtless led to a great scarcity of money, and many of the consequent evils which designing persons have mixed up with the monetary difficulties of the Provincial Treasury, and have attributed the same most unjustly and incorrectly to the late House of Assembly, whereas the Legislature is not accountable for the wild speculations of individuals; nor are the great commercial depression of the Province, and present scarcity of money in any way attributable to the Legislature: they have arisen from circumstances over which the House of Assembly have not, nor ever had, any control, which must be evident to any one who will take the trouble to examine into the matter.

Now Gentlemen, although from the causes above enumerated, our Revenue, it must be admitted, is just now at a very low ebb, yet bear in mind the money has been, with very few exceptions, applied towards the internal improvements of the country, and other matters connected with the interest and prosperity of the Province, and the necessities of the people; and although the money is not in the Treasury, yet we have the money's worth, we have something to show for it. Witness within the last few years, your roads, bridges, and facilities of communication through the province.

Your Seminaries, Schools, and other institutions for the Education of the youth of the country.

The encouragement afforded to the steam navigation between this and the adjacent provinces.

The extensive encouragement to public stages in the province. The public wharves and ferry landings. The large sums appropriated for the improvement of the navigation of our Rivers.

The Geological Explorations. The aid to the Agricultural Societies.

The provincial Penitentiaries. The Lunatic Asylum.

The aid towards the erection of the public buildings in many of the counties of the province.

The Light Houses on the coasts, and St. Paul's Island.

The Seamen's Hospital. The Lazarettoes for the sick. The pensions to old Soldiers, &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen—our debt it is true, is large, yet there is nothing so alarming in it when we take into consideration that the demands now due to the crown if collected, would pay more than half of the whole debt, and with a due regard to economy for a few years, the whole may be liquidated without difficulty or any additional taxes upon the people.

Gentlemen—I find I am to be opposed at this Election, and a great effort is to be made by a few individuals to oust me—And for what? simply because I happen to reside in Newcastle, instead of Chatham, for nothing else; it is my place of residence, not the man they object to. I have repeatedly inquired of my most determined opponents their objections to me, and the reply is invariably the same—because you do not reside in Chatham, and many—and indeed nearly all to whom I have spoken—have stated openly and publicly, if I lived in Chatham, there is no man in the country they would sooner vote for.

Gentlemen—I consider this the highest compliment they could pay me, and hard indeed must it be to find an objection, when such a cause is urged.

Gentlemen—if the objection is good for anything it would equally apply to every parish in the county, and every parish in the county should in such a case have a resident member.

Gentlemen—I certainly never to my knowledge allowed local or private feelings to influence me in the discharge of my Legislative duties. I have always felt equally anxious to promote the interest of every part of the county. In respect to Chatham, I am just as much interested in promoting its prosperity as any man in it. I own considerable property, have an office, and some of my intimate friends are there.

Gentlemen—the very circumstance of the new election law requiring the poll to be held in Chatham and other parts of the County, is a proof that the members have not been actuated by local feeling.

Gentlemen—I do not fear the result of this contest, because I believe from past experience that there is too much good sense and liberal and high feeling among the Freeholders of this County to be led away by local prejudices and party feelings.

Gentlemen—I come forward as I have always done, depending upon my own character and standing among you for success, and in conclusion have only farther to add, that if I am again honored with your suffrages, I shall never betray the Trust, but discharge my duty as I hope I have ever done; fearlessly and independently, without regard to local prejudices or party feeling, and rest assured that no exertion on my part shall be wanting to promote the true interest and prosperity of the Province, and of this county in particular.

The following is the substance of Mr Williston's remarks—

Gentlemen Electors,

I assure you, I appear here to day, with very great diffidence, having to contend with men who have long obtained your confidence; but having been solicited to offer myself a Candidate on the present occasion, by a very

large body of Freeholders, I could not refuse the flattering call, and now appear before you, confident that I shall receive the votes of a people who have suffered severely from the mismanagement of the Provincial affairs.

Gentlemen—if the same extravagant course be adopted by the Legislature for the ensuing six years, as they pursued for several sessions past, an irreparable injury will be inflicted on the public credit. To avoid this evil, I would propose that the strictest economy be observed—that a sum of money, equal in amount to the debt of the Province, be borrowed on the lowest possible terms, say at about 3 per cent, in the Mother Country. The sum thus required would be about £135,000. The next thing to be considered is, how the Civil List—the Judicial Establishment—the Interest of the Loan—the Education of the country—and the improvement of the Roads and Bridges are to be provided for. In answer, I would say—the most rigid economy must be observed, that no partizan grants must be made—that the expenses of the Legislature should be reduced to what they were previous to the last election—and that the Public Money should be guarded and disbursed with as much care as a man would expend his own.

You may imagine it incredible, but it is notwithstanding the fact, that when Sir John Harvey came to the Province, the public chest contained at least £120,000; and now, it appears by the official returns of the Treasurer, we are in debt £135,000, £25,000 of which sum is due to the Banks, for which the high rate of 6 per cent. interest is paid. The question will very naturally be asked—what has become of the money? How has the Assembly expended such large sums? in such a short space as six years? Perhaps it may be accounted for in this way:—Sir John Harvey, during the five years of his administration, received either directly or indirectly, about £35,000, partly for his salary, and the remainder in barter or exchange for the patronage that should be entirely in the Crown—and the farewell offering of a Service of Plate, which cost £1,200, besides a few unaccountable items in the Contingent Bill, which swelled from £1,500 during the same period to near £10,000. In this manner, Gentlemen, the public credit has been prostrated—the School Grants, and Old Soldiers and their Widows' Pensions, not paid—the Bye Road, as well as other Grants not issued. In this way the resources of the country have been dried up, and the poor man compelled to suffer many privations. Were it not for the great benefits which have been conferred on the inhabitants through the indefatigable exertions of the Rev. Mr. Egan, in so effectually preventing the use of spirituous liquors, by introducing Total Abstinence Societies, it is difficult to say to what state things would have come to before now. Many hard working, industrious, and sober men, together with their families, are now suffering, which would not have been the case had the resources of the Province been unimpaired—and expended in a judicious and prudent manner.

Gentlemen—I have been said by the old members, during their canvass, that they should wish to be returned together, as they have always acted harmoniously. I fear with too much harmony for the good of the people—had a little more enquiry and investigation been gone into, I am persuaded that many of the lavish grants would never have been made.

Gentlemen—It must be apparent to all, from the mode of canvass, that Mr Rankin intends, if possible, to take into the Assembly Mr Street with him. If such be effected, you will place the whole Legislative influence of this county into the hands of Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin & Co. whose power, I feel persuaded many of you think sufficiently strong already. Depend upon it, the result of this contest will have a very marked influence on the price of all the staple articles of our trade, which may be brought to market, and if you return a member from each side of the river, you will put a stop to the bickerings and heart-burnings which have so long existed, and establish a competition between the merchants residing there, which will redound to your immediate advantage. Lumbermen, Fishermen, Farmers, and Mill owners, look well to what you are about—study your own interest—remember that you possess a great privilege. That as Freeholders the law puts you in possession of the Elective Franchise, and that you ought to use it not for your own advantage, but for the benefit of the whole population. If the old members in your opinion, have served you faithfully and impartially, and fearlessly discharged the high and important duties you have entrusted to them—return them again—but, I am convinced you are not satisfied with their conduct, and that their proceedings are condemned by the public voice. You have now a remedy in your hands. If you do not use it, you will have yourselves to blame.

What has been done to relieve the Lumberman? Is not the duty as high as it ever was? and is not the pernicious system of Public Sale fully established? Can any man obtain the right to cut a stick of timber, or procure an acre of Wilderness land, without attending these sales? This system may suit those who wish to keep the country in a state of vassalage—but it cannot meet the approbation of those who wish to settle thereon; and it appears to me that everything has been done

to retard our onward march. Talk of encouraging Emigration! when at the least calculation 9,000 of the inhabitants left the Province during the last season. This has resulted from the fact, that the Agricultural interest of the country has not received its proper share of Legislative protection. The obtaining of Wilderness Land is also too difficult, and clogged with heavy expenses. There should be a more ready way to obtain Land, and at much lower prices than at present. The Lumberland should be relieved of, at least half of the present duty, which would also be a great benefit to the mill owners; and in some of the Fisheries relief is required. These branches of Industry should be as unfettered as possible. The Revenue should be raised by an impost on articles of consumption, and not taken out of the hard earnings of the Lumberman, and persons who wish to cultivate our soil, who have to obtain their small pittance by the sweat of their brow.

Gentlemen—Among other expedients resorted to, to prejudice you against me, the Lock-Up House has been mentioned. Do not let them deceive you with such nonsense—that question is set at rest. Had that establishment been built, which was to cost £60, it would have saved the County many pounds, for it was considered that the fees would defray all expenses. Thanks to the cause of Temperance, no great necessity now exists for such a building. It is to be regretted the persons who circulated this report, did not say who wanted a Poor House to be built at the cost of £1,000 to the County, at Newcastle, with an annual expenditure of at least £1,500; and they forgot to tell you who were the members on the Bench who approved of it.

A few words with regard to Sir William Colebrooke's great measures. I am opposed to the Province borrowing half a million of money, as I fear the Legislature would lavishly expend it as they did our surplus revenue,—but I am decidedly of opinion that a sum equal to the debt of the Province should be borrowed, that all persons holding warrants on the Treasury should be paid. I did not approve of the Board of Works—and with respect to the Municipal Corporations, it will be time enough to establish such when the people ask for them.

Gentlemen—I do not come forward under the patronage of any great house—I throw myself on the suffrages of the independent Freeholders—to them I entrust my cause—and were they allowed to exercise their own judgements, I would not have a doubt of the issue. The only professions I have to make are—should you honor me with your confidence, I shall do all in my power to advance the interest of the Province, and particularly of this County.

State of the Poll at its close yesterday evening—

Rankin	304
Street	269
Williston	109

Much important matter has been crowded out to make room for our local news.

GLOUCESTER.—We have just learnt, that the Election in this County, terminated in favor of Wm. End, Esq., and Mr. J. Alexandre, by a show of hands.

MARRIAGES.

At Boiestown, on the 28th November, by the Rev. J. Turnbull, Mr John Taylor, to Miss Dorothy McLeod, both of the parish of Ludlow.

NOTICE.

The Annual Meeting of the Highland N. B. Society, will take place, at McBeaths Hotel Chatham on Friday the 13th day of January next at 11 o'clock, a. m.

JAMES CAIE. } Secretaries.
NEIL McLEAN. }
December 27.

NOTICE.

In consequence of the unfavourable weather, and the dangerous state of the roads, the Chatham Temperance Society postponed their Meeting, from Thursday evening last, till to-morrow, (Thursday,) when it will be held at the same place, and at the same hour.

Card.

The Subscribers beg leave to return their sincere thanks to William Abrams, Esq., Lady and family, for their unmerited goodness and liberality manifested toward them in time of need, and to the men at the Shipyard for their prompt assistance. Also to Mr James White and man, South West, for saving them from a watery grave.

WILLIAM CLARK.
EDWARD BANNIN.

Miramichi, December 26, 1842.