

The howlings now increased, and it was evident more wolves were arriving. At length there was a moment's silence.

"Do you hear the horses," said George, "how they neigh and paw? It is a signal for us to be prepared."

"I thought the wolves were gone," replied I; "they have left off howling."

"No, they have finished their repast, and are preparing for an attack. Here they come."

The cart on my right, defended by George, was assailed by three wolves, one of which was immediately disabled by a thrust of the vigorous old man's pike. A ball from my carbine settled another, and seeing George's hatchet raised over the head of the third I knew he wanted no further aid, and looked to see what was going on to my left. Two wolves had attacked the waggon which was defended by one of George's sons, who received the first of his foes with a lance thrust. But apparently no vital part was touched, and the wolf had broken the pike with his teeth; so that for a moment man opposed to him had nothing but the pole wherewith to defend himself. The second wolf was scrambling along the cart, and on the point of attacking him, when I sprang from one waggon to another, and fired one of my pistols into the animal's ear. He fell dead beside his companion, who was rolling in the snow, and making violent efforts to tear the broken lance from his wound.

Meantime Ivan was heard at work, and I heard a carbine or two pistol shots, which told me that our adversaries were as warmly received on the left as on the right of the line. An instant later four wolves again crossed the circle of light, but this time in full retreat; and at the same moment, to our no small astonishment three others, that we had thought dead or mortally wounded, raised themselves up and followed their companions, leaving large tracks of blood behind them. The carcasses remained upon the field of battle.

"Load again, and quickly," cried George. "I know their ways; they will be back directly." And the old man pointed with his finger into the darkness. I listened, and heard distant howlings replying to the nearer ones. What we had as yet had was a mere skirmish. The general engagement was to come.

"Look behind you!" cried a voice. I turned and saw two fiery eyes gleaming on the top of the snow wall in our rear. Before I could draw a trigger the wolf gave a leap, and falling upon one of the horses struck his fangs into its throat. Three men left their waggons.

"There is but one wolf," cried George, "and one man is enough. Let the others remain at their posts."

Two of the men resumed their places. The third crept upon his hands and knees among the horses who, in their terror, were kicking and plunging violently, and throwing themselves against the carts by which they were surrounded. The next instant I saw the gleam of a knife blade, and the wolf let go the horse, which reared up on its hind legs, the blood streaming from its throat. A dark mass was rolling and struggling on the ground. It was the man and the wolf.

At the end of a few seconds the man stood up. "David," said he to one of his comrades, "come and help me to carry away this carrion. The horses won't be quiet while it lies here."

They dragged the wolf towards George's waggon, and then raising it up from the ground, the old man took it by the hind legs, as though it had been a hare, and threw it outside the line of carts.

"Well, Nicholas," said George to the successful combatant, "don't you take your place again."

"No," replied the other; "I have enough as it is."

"Are you wounded?" cried Louis, opening the door of the telegraph.

"I believe I have killed my last wolf," answered the poor fellow in a faint voice.

I gave George my carbine, and hastened to the wounded man. A part of his jaw was torn away, and the blood flowed abundantly from a large wound in his neck. I for a moment feared that the carotid artery was opened, and scarcely knowing whether I did right or wrong, I seized a handful of snow and applied it to the wound. The sufferer uttered a cry and fainted away.

"O God!" cried Louise, "have mercy upon him!"

"To your posts," shouted George in a stentorian voice; "the wolves are upon us."

I left the wounded man in Louise's care, and jumped upon the cart.

I can give no details of the combat that followed. I had too much occupation myself to attend to what my companions were doing. We were attacked by at least twenty wolves at once. After discharging my two pistols, I armed myself with an axe that George gave me. The fight lasted nearly a quarter of an hour, and certainly the scene was one of the most terrible it is possible to imagine. At length, and just as I was splitting the skull of a wolf that hung to one of the wheels of my waggon, a shout of victory resounded along our line, and again our enemies fled, but this time it was for good.

Three of our men were wounded, besides Nicholas, who was still alive, but in a desperate state. We were obliged to shoot the horse that had been torn by the wolf.

By daybreak, a passage was opened through the wall of snow, and we resumed our journey. The evening of the same day we reached a small village, where we found an inn, that, under any other circumstances, would have been pronounced abominable, but which appeared a palace after three such days as we had passed. The following morning we parted from our friends the carriers, leaving George five hundred rubles to divide among them.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:
FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 1848.

NORTHUMBERLAND ELECTION.—In accordance with previous announcement, a poll for the election of a member to Represent this County in General Assembly, was opened in front of the Court House, on the morning of Monday last.

The Candidates were J. A. STREET, and JOHN T. WILLISTON, Esqrs.

The former was proposed by Henry B. Allison, Esq., and seconded by Mr Patrick Whalen. The latter was proposed by Dudley Perley, Esq., seconded by Mr Michael Dunn.

Mr Street, after complimenting the seconder of Mr Williston on his eloquent speech, and making a few brief remarks thereon, addressed the Freeholders nearly as follows:

Gentlemen, At the earnest solicitation of a large number of the Freeholders of this county, I am again induced to present myself before you as a candidate for your suffrages.

In doing so, Gentlemen, I beg to assure you I have no ambitious or selfish views of my own to gratify, and where I to look merely to my own comfort and that of my family, I should certainly on the present occasion decline coming forward; but Gentlemen, having so long possessed the confidence of the county, and not being conscious of ever having done anything to forfeit that confidence, I do not feel that I can in justice to my friends, to my supporters, or to the county at the present crisis, decline.

Gentlemen, my earnest wish is, that the election should be conducted peaceably, and with a due regard to the free exercise of the elective franchise; and as I told you, gentlemen in my card, if I cannot be returned upon fair and honorable terms, I have no wish to be returned at all. In short, I would not accept of a seat in the house upon other conditions.

Gentlemen, it is the sincere desire of my supporters and myself, that every Freeholder, whether for me or against me, should have an opportunity of giving his vote fearlessly, and without restraint; and if, Gentlemen, there should be then found a majority of votes against me, I shall submit without murmur or complaint, or the slightest feeling of hostility—but while I say that, Gentlemen, I am not disposed to be cheated or bullied out of my rights—that is what neither you nor I ought to submit to, nor will we submit to.

Gentlemen, I and my supporters will maintain our rights in a legal and constitutional manner, and if disturbances arise, it shall not be our fault. At the same time, Gentlemen, we are determined not to be trampled upon. Gentlemen, it is not my purpose to animadvert upon the character or conduct of my opponents,—all I have to say upon that subject is, that you know them, you know me—therefore judge for yourselves. But do not allow yourselves, Gentlemen, to be led away by squibs and reports that are too apt to be put in circulation on such occasions, without regard to truth, to answer electioneering purposes.

Gentlemen, as this is a new election, I am not disposed to refer to what took place at the last, or the causes that have given rise to the present contest—these are matters all within your own knowledge, and require no note or comment from me, and I have no wish to create excitement here by any remarks thereon. Gentlemen, my political opinions are well known to you—I love my country, and our noble constitution. If our rights are invaded, it is not the fault of the Laws, but of the administration thereof. Gentlemen, I have no local feelings or prejudices to gratify, and if I am returned you may rest assured that I will discharge my duty, as I trust I have always done, fearlessly and independently, and look to the interest of every part of the County alike, without favor or prejudice.

Mr Street was followed by Mr Williston, who spoke at some length. We give below his remarks:—

Mr. Sheriff, and Gentlemen Freeholders of the county of Northumberland,

In consequence of pressing invitations to offer myself as a candidate for your suffrages, and your assurances to conduct me triumphantly through the present contest, it could not be reasonably expected that I should decline allowing myself to be put in nomination; at the same time that I have not the vanity to think that anything which I have done or can do, could have inspired such confidence. I would rather infer that you are dissatisfied with those whom you had elected as your representatives—that you know the value of your Elective Franchise, and the constitutional control it gives you over those who may have abused the confidence so generously reposed in them.

Gentlemen, the only claims which I can offer you are honesty of purpose and firmness of mind; not to be allured by the flattery of the great—nor to refuse a helping hand to the wants of the poor; that all classes shall be justly and impartially dealt with, in every instance where (should you return me as one of your representatives) such situation calls me to act.

Gentlemen, when you did me the honor to return me before, I then promised to be faithful to all claims of the people; and during the brief period which I served you, I hope I redeemed that pledge. Although beset with many difficulties during the scrutiny before a committee of the House of Assembly, where my opponent produced witnesses, such as I regret to say for the credit of the county in which I have the happiness to live, in many instances testified to what never took place, and in others perverted words and actions to suit the basest of purposes;

such as were sufficient to break down the spirit of any man, and very much to abridge his usefulness to his constituents; but under all the circumstances, it was cheering to find kind friends even in the greatest strangers, and I take this opportunity of thanking the committee for the kind indulgence and forbearance shown towards me during that protracted investigation.

Gentlemen, there is one thing which you should always bear in view in choosing a representative; that is, that he should attend faithfully to the interests of the people, and the support of liberal and good government, and not avail himself of the power bestowed by the people, for his own selfish and private ends; at the same time he should possess sufficient firmness to resist any encroachment of the government on the people's rights, if at any time such should be the case. If such had been the governing principle for the last six years, with our representatives, depend upon it this fine Province, with unbounded natural resources, would not at the present day, be groaning under a weight of debt unparalleled in any British colony with the same number of inhabitants. To such an extent has the public debt accumulated, as to suspend all useful improvements, and which has caused such a general depression in trade, as to have drawn at least one-tenth of the population from the province within the last year, many of whom were our best artisans. No bye-read grants paid—no school-master's warrants can be paid, in fact nothing can be paid regularly but the civil list. Have not our representatives incurred an awful responsibility by allowing matters to come to such a climax. At the last meeting of the Legislature, a financial statement was made out, reducing the balance of the debt below one hundred thousand pounds; but in making that statement, assets to a large amount were taken into the account, a large portion of which cannot be collected, and I am warranted in saying that at that time the province was at least £120,000 in debt! Is not this state of things sufficient to distress both the energies of the government and the people; and believe me, if something be not speedily done to relieve the credit of the country from its present situation, that very many of our most industrious and wealthy settlers will leave the place. To relieve the country from its present embarrassment you must choose men not accustomed to the old school of political economy. You must choose men willing and determined to reduce the overgrown salaries of our rulers—their incomes must be regulated by the circumstances of the country. Your representatives must not be office hunters—nor monopolists,—you should by all constitutional means endeavour to have the price of wilderness lands reduced, so that poor men may become permanent settlers; suitable regulations for the disposal of lumber berths should be made to prevent large capitalists from engrossing the whole country, to the serious injury of the operative lumbermen. The agricultural interest is of paramount importance, and should have the best attention of the Legislature. The local fisheries should be so regulated as to remove any just cause of jealousy, and at the same time protect those engaged in them, according to the situations and circumstances of the country. No grants of the public money should be made unless purely for public purposes,—the strictest economy should be enforced in every public department,—no buying of political influence should be allowed by grants of the People's money. If these principles were strictly enforced, our fine Province may yet rise to a state of comparative independence. But if you continue to elect those who conceive that the province was made for a few, and the bulk of the people held in no better estimation than voters at will, so long will the province draw out a miserable existence.

Gentlemen, the canvass at the last election used against me was, that I was opposed to any modification in the college charter. I think my conduct in the house dispelled the delusion, and from the limited knowledge I have of the Institution, I am ready to say that I think very great public good will be effected if the charter be so altered as to give general confidence in its management, and less religious restraint imposed on those entering it.

Gentlemen, if anything were wanting to convince you of the necessity of a change in the representation of the county, you will find it in the fact of the mode of canvass used against me; witness both my opponent and Mr. Rankin going from house to house, imploring and entreating, threatening and persuading persons to vote; and not stopping there, but promising great things, giving presents, scattering silver amongst the children of the poor, urging for God's sake to come forward and support them; and when all these fine things fail, one exclaims—"I will leave the country should we lose this election." But I know you are proof against any of the expedients used to win your confidence; but depend upon it, when the election is over these fine promises will be forgotten, and your representatives will have a few years more to sport on the miseries of the people.

All this expense and loss of time, besides the mortification of being so often answered in the negative, proves the correctness of my views, and that very great abuses exist which are attempted to be concealed.

Gentlemen, you are now called upon to exercise the dearest right that our blessed constitution bestows on the subject—that of choosing a person to represent you in the Legislature of your country; you give power either to do good for our common interest or lasting evil—and it is your privilege to elect the one whom you think will serve you best. For my part I have no professions to make; my public conduct has been before you for many years; if you think me worthy of your confidence, depend upon it I shall endeavour by every honest means to merit it.

Gentlemen, many and varied interests depend

on the result of the present contest—it is your best interest to keep up a lively and honorable competition between the different mercantile establishments on this river, and that to give too great power to any one concern, would be affording a facility for keeping down the prices of our articles of export, as has been the case heretofore.

Gentlemen, I put myself on the suffrages of the people at large, not on any particular interest, and should I be elected, I should be placed in such an independent situation as regards such election, as to be at liberty to serve every one equally alike.

Gentlemen, matters of religion, I am clearly of opinion, should be left entirely to the dictates of every man's own conscience.

Gentlemen, I have to request as a particular favor, that each one will use his influence and advice to keep the peace, and allow the free and uninterrupted exercise of the Elective Franchise; let us gain the object we have in view in an honorable and manly way, let not our colours be tarnished by the least breach of the peace. It must be fresh in your recollection that we, on the occasion of the last Election, commenced, determined to conduct ourselves as men should do, but were forced into a contrary line of conduct by the proceeding of the opposite party; and if common report can be depended on, our opponents have imported a great number of life protectors, to be used on this occasion; I hope they will not be brought amongst you; I trust our opponents will see the necessity of not displaying anything calculated to excite the public mind. For my part I have through the whole summer endeavored to impress on your minds the necessity of keeping yourselves within the bounds of the strictest decorum, and any one of my friends attempting to disturb that quiet so essentially necessary on those occasions, cannot be considered by me as a friend to my cause. But I apprehend from what has come to my knowledge, that a different line of conduct is contemplated by my opponent and his particular friends, which, for the honour of Miramichi, I hope may be without foundation.

Gentlemen, I am now in your hands—the result remains with yourselves—it is your cause as well as mine; do not be deterred from voting as your inclination leads; I know many of you have been forced to promise your votes, but value your privilege too much to be deterred; let the honest conviction of your hearts direct you to the support of the man of your choice; let not the vile canvass that has been made against me—or the threats that you have received, have any influence in your coming to the poll; do it honestly. If you have been induced to sign an obligation that you would vote against me, consider the insult offered you by requesting you to bind yourselves by writing. It is such an insult as I venture to say no free and independent Elector ever heard of before, and should be considered as breaking down the best of feelings—a proper reciprocal confidence between the electors and the candidates, and such as I am sure on mature reflection you will view with just indignation.

Mr Dunn, the seconder of Mr Williston occupied the attention of the persons present for some time. The following embraces the substance of his comments.

Gentlemen,

I having had the honor to second the nomination of Mr Williston at the last election, referred you to his conduct as a Magistrate for his standing in this county, as a guarantee for his qualification to be our Representative, and thereby being himself concerned in the trade, and perfectly acquainted with the resources of this county, would certainly be a fit and proper person to represent us in the General Assembly of the Province. I now refer you to his political career, to show the part he has taken in those important measures which have been brought under the consideration of the Legislature, and I trust that you will give me credit for speaking the truth when I say, that no amount of private friendship would induce me to undertake this office unless I agreed with Mr Williston in his political views, and felt firmly convinced that it was his determination, honestly, to carry out those measures of reform, and steadily to adhere to those liberal principles as the advocate of which he appears before you to solicit your suffrages. You will probably be told, Gentlemen, as you were told before, that it is because Mr Street does not live in Chatham, that he is opposed by the people of that district; but such is not the case—it is because the people of Chatham in common with the majority of this county, and of this Province, are opposed to that ruinous system of Legislation which has been pursued by our rulers—a system which has enriched the few and impoverished the many. But believing as we do, Gentlemen, that we have been unfairly dealt by, I would ask any man, however opposed to us, is there any thing unjust, unfair, or unreasonable in seeking a change? But no matter in what part of this county you reside, you may rest assured if we, the people of Chatham, are put down, you will feel the effects. If you put unlimited power into the hands of one man, however great, however wealthy, or however good he may be, you, yourselves, become the authors of your own ruin.

I would ask you, Gentlemen, why should we be the electors of this county?—we are old enough to do business on our own account—we are wise enough to know what is for our own advantage—and I trust that who, I am strong enough to elect a member, as already evinced, from his political career, as already evinced, will be at all times ready to promote the interest and welfare of this county. I trust that none of you will allow any man to wheedle or intimidate you out of your vote. I know that every means have been resorted to by our