

Colonial Politics.

From the Halifax Morning Post.
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.
IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

We place before the country this morning the Resolution moved on Tuesday last in the House of Assembly, by Mr Howe, and the amendment, by the honble the Attorney General. We had heard a good deal of this Resolution, and considerable triumph had been evinced, *beforehand*, by the opposition papers, as to its expected result.

The debate on it on Tuesday afternoon, was remarkable for nothing peculiar, save that the real effect of the resolution—i. e. to introduce a system of governing the country by Heads of Departments was carefully kept out of sight; and no wonder; when it must be felt on all hands that the country would never submit to a system that would transfer the most important public business to political demagogues; [we refer not to persons, but the future operation of the system,] and plunge the country into enormous expense, in sustaining a pension list.

The meaning of the proposition is that the Lt. Governor, for the time being, shall be advised by nine office holders—and of course, if there be not nine Heads of Departments already, they must be created; and when they lose a majority in the assembly, they must retire with a pension—to be paid out of the Provincial Funds, as in Canada.

The amendment passed in the House on Tuesday, 24 to 22—Messrs Ross, Creighton, and George Smith being absent; and after a long debate the next morning, with closed doors, on the motion of Mr Doyle for rescinding, the vote of the preceding night was confirmed.

MR. HOWE'S RESOLUTION.

Whereas, the principles of administration, applicable to the Government of the North American colonies, have been formally sanctioned, by the highest authority, on several occasions, and ought, to prevent misrepresentation or mistake, to be recorded on the Journals of the Assembly, with its deliberate sanction:

And whereas, the following Resolutions, moved by Mr Secretary Harrison, were adopted by the Parliament of Canada, on the 3rd September, 1841—

1. That the most important as well as the most undoubted of the political rights of the people of this Province is, that of having a Provincial Parliament for the protection of their liberties, for the exercise of a Constitutional influence over the Executive departments of their Government, and for Legislation upon all matters of internal government.

2. That the head of the Executive Government of the Province, being, within the limits of his Government, the Representative of the Sovereign, is responsible to the Imperial authority alone; but that, nevertheless, the management of our local affairs can only be conducted by him, by and with the assistance, counsel, and information, of subordinate officers in the Province.

3. That in order to preserve, between the different branches of the Provincial Parliament, that harmony which is essential to the peace, welfare, and good Government of the Province, the chief advisers of the representative of the sovereign, constituting a provincial administration under him, ought to be men possessed of the confidence of the representatives of the people, thus affording a guarantee that the well understood wishes and interests of the people, which our Gracious Sovereign has declared shall be the rule of the Provincial Government, will on all occasions, be faithfully represented and advocated.

4. That the people of this province have, moreover, a right to expect from such provincial administration the exertion of their best endeavours, that the Imperial authority shall be exercised in the manner most consistent with their well understood wishes and interests.

And whereas, the following declaration was read to the house on the 14th day of March, 1842, by the hon Mr Dodd, with the concurrence of all the members of the then administration:

"In Canada, as in this country, the true principle of colonial Government is, that the Governor is responsible for the acts of his government to his Sovereign, and the executive councillors are responsible to the Governor. He asks their advice when he wishes it, he adopts it at his pleasure, and it is the duty of those that disapprove of his acts to retire from the board."—Extract from a speech of hon A. Stewart.

We admit the whole of this, and have so stated it several times, we also admit that any system of Government which does not include the responsibility of the Governor to the Sovereign, and of the councillors to Him, is inconsistent with the relation of a colony to the Mother country.

"Lord Falkland has received Her Majesty's commands to govern the province in conformity with the well understood wishes of the people expressed through their representatives. His responsibility to his sovereign, therefore, renders it imperative upon us to consult your wishes and possess your confidence.

"If, in carrying out his instructions, he comes in collision with the house, his sovereign must judge between him and them, the people between the house and his council; the success of his administration depends upon his having a council secure in the affections of the House. His councillors are responsible to him, but he takes them because they possess your confidence, and he will dismiss them when they have lost it. This involves their responsibility to you. We admit our responsibility to the Governor, we admit the Governor's right to act

and appoint, but we confess our obligation to defend his acts and appointments, and your right to obstruct and embarrass us in carrying on the Government when these are not wise and satisfactory; the exercise of the prerogative must be firm and independent, in every act of the Government, general and local; but its exercise is to be defended here by us; and the necessity there is for your possessing the confidence of the people, the council yours, the Governor theirs—includes all the strength, and yet responsibility, which are desirable under a Representative Monarchy."

And whereas, His Excellency Sir Charles Metcalfe has thus explained, in answer to an address from Gore, in Canada, his views of colonial Government.

"If you mean that the Government should be administered according to the well understood wishes and interests of the people; the resolutions of September, 1841, should be faithfully adhered to; that it should be competent to the council to offer advice on all occasions whether as to patronage or otherwise; and that the Governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers; and consult with them in all cases of adequate importance; that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them; that the council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and the people; and that when the acts of the Government are such as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign; then I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying on Responsible Government in a colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense, and equitable minds, devoid of party spirit."

Therefore, resolved, That this House recognize, in the above resolutions and documents, the true principles of Colonial Government, as applicable to this Province.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AMENDMENT.
And whereas, His Excellency Sir Charles Metcalfe has thus explained, in answer to an address from Gore, in Canada, his views of Colonial Government.

"With reference to your views of Responsible Government, I cannot tell you how far I concur in them without knowing your meaning, which is not distinctly stated.

"If you mean that the Governor is to have no exercise of his own judgment in the administration of the Government, and is to be a mere tool in the hands of the council, then I totally disagree with you. That is a condition to which I can never submit, and which Her Majesty's Government, in my opinion, never can sanction.

"If you mean that every word and deed of the Governor is to be previously submitted for the advice of the council, then your purpose what, besides being unnecessary and useless, is utterly impossible, consistently with the due despatch of business.

"If you mean that the patronage of the crown is to be surrendered for exclusive party purposes to the council, instead of being distributed to reward merit, to meet just claims, and to promote the efficiency of the public service, then we are again at issue; such a surrender of the prerogative of the crown is, in my opinion, incompatible with the existence of a British colony.

"If you mean that the Governor is an irresponsible officer, who can without responsibility adopt the advice of his council, then you are I conceive, entirely in error. The undisputed functions of the Governor are such, that he is not only one of the hardest worked servants of the colony, but has also more responsibilities than any other officer in it. He is responsible to the Crown and the Parliament, and the people of the mother country, for every act that he performs or suffers to be done, whether it originates with himself, or is adopted on the advice of others. He could not divest himself of that responsibility by pleading the advice of the council. He is also virtually responsible to the people of this colony, and practically more so than even to the mother country. Every day proves it, and no Resolutions can make it otherwise.

"But if, instead of meaning any of the above stated impossibilities, you mean that the Government should be administered according to the well understood wishes of the people; the resolutions of September, 1841, should be faithfully adhered to; that it should be competent to the council to offer advice on all occasions whether as to patronage or otherwise; and that the Governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers; and consult with them in all cases of adequate importance; that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them; that the council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and the people; and that when the acts of the Governor are such, as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign; then I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying out Responsible Government in a colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense, and equitable minds, devoid of party spirit."

Therefore Resolved,—That this House recognize in the above resolutions and documents the true principles of Colonial Government as applicable to the Province:—

But nevertheless, that this House by adopting the foregoing Canadian resolutions shall not be construed to have sanctioned the introduction into this colony of the transfer from this House to the Executive of the imitative of the money votes—or the enlargement of the qualification of members of this House, and of the electors—or the creation of any officers for Heads of Departments—or of a pension fund for retiring Heads of Departments,—or of the

introduction of any other principles of the Canadian Institutions and administration of Government not at present adopted in this Province; this house being of opinion that before the same shall be introduced into this colony, the consent of the people first should formally be expressed by their Representatives in General Assembly.

Colonial News.

New-Brunswick.

St. John New Brunswick.

Riot in York Point.—We regret to state that on Thursday evening last, a riot occurred in York Point, which was attended with a melancholy occurrence. It appears that in the evening a number of evil disposed persons assembled in the streets, and commenced an indiscriminate attack on all who were passing that way; and a number of unoffending and highly respectable individuals were thus maltreated and abused. Between ten and eleven o'clock, as Mr S. Manks was on his way home from the city, he was attacked, and being armed with a brace of pistols, he drew them forth and fired one, the ball entering the breast of a lad named John Donovan, and so seriously injured him that he is not expected to survive.

Yesterday morning, his Worship the Mayor proceeded to Portland and took Manks into custody. He has been placed in gaol until an examination shall take place. We are informed that it was with the greatest difficulty that Manks was preserved from the violence of the mob, even after he was in charge of the authorities, and had it not been for the determination evinced by his Worship, he would have been killed on the spot.

We sincerely regret these outrages, and call upon the proper authorities to take such steps as will entirely put an end to them for the future. Such proceedings are a disgrace to any civilized community, and unless they are put down by the strong arm of the law, they will result in the sacrifice of some valuable lives. We have not heard that anything has yet been done to put a check to them, but we trust the authorities will no longer delay in the fulfilment of their bounden duty, and thus, now and for ever, put an end to such violations of the public peace.

March 16

Public Meeting.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of this city was held yesterday at the Court House, in pursuance of a requisition addressed to His Worship the Mayor, for the purpose of considering measures to establish a permanent and efficient police in this city. His Worship was called to the chair and explained the objects for which the meeting was called.

On motion of William Hammond, Esquire, seconded by John M. Robinson, Esquire—

Resolved, That the time is arrived when it is expedient to place the peace of this city and the lives of its inhabitants under the protection of an efficient police, who shall be independent of the Common Council, and that a committee be appointed to prepare a petition and Bill for that purpose to be laid before the Legislature.

Moved by Mr F. McDermot, and seconded by A. Balloch, Esquire—

Resolved, That the said Petition and Bill be submitted to an adjourned meeting, to be held in the court house on Thursday next, at noon.

Resolved, That the following gentlemen compose the said committee, viz:—the Mayor, and Messrs Wm. Hammond, John M. Robinson, F. McDermot, and George Wheeler.

His Worship having left the chair, and B. L. Peters, Esquire, being called thereto, on motion of Alderman Porter—

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to his Worship the Mayor for his promptitude in calling the meeting, and his dignified conduct in the chair.

The weather for some days past has been very mild, and the snow has almost entirely disappeared from the streets. The travelling on the river is yet very good, and the ice is considered perfectly safe.

Prince-Edward-Island.

Charlottetown Gazette, March 5.

Legislature.—The public business is quietly going on, this session, and will probably terminate in good time, although commencing several days later than usual. There will be an entirely new enactment, for the support of Education. The revised Law for the relief of Insolvent Debtors is published on our first page. That relating to small Debts, we printed last Wednesday in an extra. The seaweed bill has been thrown out in the council. In the committee of Ways and Means last evening, it was contemplated to lay an excise duty on home manufactured spirits, and to increase the impost on imported. The Report on the Public Accounts will be seen on our last page, and will, no doubt, be read with interest.

Notice.

James M Kelly respectfully announces, that his Stage will leave White's Hotel, Chatham, for Fredericton, on the morning of every Monday, at Eight, and Newcastle at Ten o'clock, precisely. Mr Kelly has made arrangements with Mr Joseph Thompson, to convey his Passengers comfortably from the town of Chatham, timeously for his departure from Newcastle. Mr K. pledges himself to pay the strictest attention to the comfort and accommodation of travellers, and solicits a continuance of his wonted support.

Fare from Chatham 42s 6d, payable on being booked to J. Thompson.

PROSPECTUS OF
Simmonds's Colonial Magazine.

ON THE 1st JANUARY, 1844.
Was published, to be continued monthly, price 2s. 6d.

THE FIRST NUMBER OF

Simmonds's Colonial Magazine,

A Journal of Literature, Art, Science, Commerce, and Finance;

EDITED BY P. L. SIMMONDS,

Fellow of the Statistical Society, Secretary of the Meteorological Society, member of the Royal Agricultural and Ethnological Societies of London, Honorary and corresponding member of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, of the Literary Association of Barbadoes, of the Agricultural Societies of Montreal, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, Konigsberg, etc etc etc.

In submitting a New Periodical to the Public it is customary to state, in few words, the object with which it has been set on foot, and as far as possible, the mode in which it will be conducted.

Much consideration has been bestowed on the plan of our publication, and every part has been duly weighed.

We have ever maintained the opinion, that the interests of Great Britain and her Colonies can never be permanently at variance, or at least that it is always practicable by sound legislation, to render the prosperity of the mother country the cause and consequence of that of her children. We shall therefore endeavor to enforce and illustrate these views, by showing, in the minutest detail, the mutual dependence of every part of our vast empire, and by pointing out the methods by which apparently conflicting interests may be conciliated.

Any further statement of our views and theories is unnecessary in this place. The Public must judge whether we redeem the pledge here given, that we shall be consistent and persevering in the advocacy of British and Colonial interests.

It is necessary, however, to say something of the means we have at our disposal, for treating in a fitting manner the subject of the Colonies—under which term we include the whole of our daily increasing empire exterior to the mother country.

In the first place we propose, by a high rate of remuneration, to secure as contributors, some of the ablest writers on the subjects which it is our province to discuss; and we invite gentlemen, whose studies have been directed to the Colonies, to forward us papers, which will receive the most attentive consideration. We shall not only discuss the most interesting questions connected with our foreign possessions, but shall labour to furnish our readers with a complete description of the manners and customs of the various people over whom our sway extends, of the countries they inhabit, their productions and capabilities of supporting emigrants. In short, we shall strive to make our publication useful and interesting to the Statesman, the Merchant, the Geographer, the Ethnologist, the Literary Man, and the General Reader. Its contents will embrace every subject connected with Commerce and Navigation, Agriculture and Manufactures, Marine Insurance, the Laws and Regulations of Trade, and the Tariffs and Commercial Treaties of various nations; thus forming a repository for full and authentic Statistical Tables of the Trade, Navigation, Resources, and Population of Great Britain and her Colonies.

We affirm unhesitatingly that we shall be enabled to offer to the Public a more comprehensive, original, and carefully condensed summary of Colonial Intelligence, than has hitherto appeared in any publication. To those interested in particular Colonies, we shall afford a complete synopsis of the occurrences there taking place, together with many of those minor incidents never noticed in the London Papers, but which give a local colouring and peculiar charm to narratives, that deprived of them, are considered dry and uninteresting.

The resources at the disposal of the Proprietor of Simmonds's Colonial Magazine, for the attainment of these objects, are extensive and peculiar. His office has for years been the centre of a widely developed system of Colonial transactions, and he has been for the same period in the regular receipt of every newspaper issued in our dependencies, from the largest to the smallest, as well as the proceedings of the Colonial Legislatures, the Colonial Almanacs, Directories, Meteorological Registers, and such Statistical Works as serve to show the progress and improvement of our possessions beyond the seas. Active and intelligent correspondents have been secured in all our colonies, whose communications cannot fail to furnish correct, ample, and early information on colonial matters. By their assistance we shall be enabled to offer from time to time, suggestions as to the best methods of improving and extending the natural and local advantages possessed by our numerous settlements and colonies.

Supporting, as we shall do, colonization on an enlarged scale, in opposition to popular prejudice; looking to no adventitious sources of success, and determining to advocate through evil and through good report, the interests of Great Britain, her colonies, and her commerce, we venture before the Public. That we shall merit support we feel assured, not only from the Literary resources at our command, from our extensive and well organized connections, and the encouragement held out to us from those colonies where our proposed undertaking is already known; but, because the subjects to which our pages will be devoted are daily increasing in importance, and exciting a corresponding interest in the public mind.