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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filigunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Miramichi, Saturday Morning, May 24, 1845.

Communications.

PUBLIC DINNER TO ALEXANDER RANKIN AND JOHN A. STREET, ESQUIRES.

14th May, 1845.

The day appointed for the festival having arrived, it was with no ordinary degree of satisfaction we witnessed the gathering together of a very large and influential portion of the Freeholders, to pay a tribute of respect to their Representatives, who so well merit the esteem, not only of the constituency of Northumberland, but of the Province generally, for their long and faithful servitude in, as well as out of the House of Assembly. Notwithstanding the inconvenience of the season, every parish in the County, with the exception of Ludlow and Blissfield, was represented at the Banquet, from both of which we had expressions of regret, that some from these could not, (without much inconvenience to themselves) also participate in the enjoyment.

The manner in which the whole affair was got up, reflects much credit on those who had the management of it, as an opportunity was given to every one, without regard to station or party, to attend; and we believe they succeeded far beyond their most sanguine expectations. Without descending to numbers, Mitchell's Hall could scarcely have accommodated another half dozen, with all the ingenuity that could be exerted in the arrangement of the Tables; and the Dinner furnished by Mr Hamill in his usual substantial and abundant style, we will do him the justice to say, could not at this particular season, have been surpassed.

JOHN NESMITH, Esq., President, with Mr. Street, and the Rev. Mr. Macbean, on his right, and Mr. End, and the Rev. Mr. McMaster, on his left, took the chair at 7 o'clock; Thos. C. ALLAN, Esq., the opposite end. Grace having been said, and the cloth removed, the President then read Letters from Alexander Rankin, Esq., expressive of his regret, that an urgent and immediate call to the Magdalen Islands on important business, would preclude the possibility of his having the pleasure of attending the Dinner; from the Honble. John W. Weldon, in consequence of the death of a near relative; and from David Wark, Esq., his colleague for the County of Kent, that positive arrangements in his business would also deprive them of the pleasure of being present on the occasion. The following Toasts were then given from the Chair, and drank with enthusiasm:—

1st. THE QUEEN—God bless her. Music—National Anthem.

2nd. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Music—Prince of Wales's March.

3rd. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family. Music—Hall, Star of Brunswick.

4th. ALEXANDER RANKIN, and JOHN A. STREET, Esquires, the Representatives of Northumberland; they have served the County long and faithfully, and are well deserving the thanks of the Constituency. Three times three. Music—Hearts of Oak.

5th. The Governor General—the Right Honorable Lord Metcalfe, and the Province of Canada. Music—The Fine Old English Gentleman. Appropriate Song by Mr Simonds.

6th. His Excellency Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. Music—For a' that and a' that. Song, by Mr Lowden.

7th. His Excellency The Right Honorable Viscount Falkland, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Music—Speed the Plough.

8th. The Right Honorable Sir Robert Peel, and Her Majesty's Ministers. Music—The Pilot who weathered the storm. Song, by Dr. Thomson.

9th. His Grace the Duke of Wellington and the Army. Music—See the conquering hero comes.

10th. The Earl of Haddington and the Navy. Music—Rule Britannia.

11th. The Honble. John W. Weldon, the Speaker of the House of Assembly of

New Brunswick. Music—You Gentlemen of England.

12th. William End, Esquire, one of the Representatives for the County of Gloucester, our respected Guest. Hip, hip, hurrah!! Music—The Sprig of Shillelah.

13th. Lady Colebrooke, and the fair Daughters of New Brunswick. Music—Green grows the Rashes, O! Song, by Mr Morrison.

14th. The Honorable the Chief Justice, and the Bench and Bar of New Brunswick. Music—The Wind that shakes the Barley. Mr Street responded.

15th. The Clergy of New Brunswick, of all denominations. Music—With one consent let all the earth.

16th. The Land we live in. Music—Home sweet Home.

17th. Sir Allan McNab, the Speaker of the House of Assembly of United Canada: distinguished as a Statesman, Soldier, and a Lawyer. Music—Whistle, and I'll come to you, my lad.

18th. The Honble. William Crane; a firm friend of Northumberland. Music—John Anderson my Joe. Song, by Mr Simonds.

The President having called on Mr Street for a Toast, he gave—The Freeholders of Northumberland. Music—Our ain folk. Song—Home sweet Home; Mr Morrison.

Mr End—the Memory of Sir Archibald Campbell, the late Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. Music—Rest, warrior rest.

Which were followed up by Volunteers from all parts of the Table; amongst which were—Our worthy President, John Nesmith, Esquire. Music—Blue Bells of Scotland. To which he replied in a concise and pithy speech, and sat down amidst applause. Song—by Mr Fraser.

Our worthy Vice, Thomas C Allan, Esquire. Here's a health to thee, Tom Brown. To which Mr Allan replied in his own happy and energetic style. Song—by Mr Alexander.

The Commerce, Agriculture, and Fisheries of Northumberland. Music—Through the woods, laddie. Song—by Mr McKillop.

Absent Friends. Music—Auld Langsyne. Song—by Mr McDonald.

The Memorable 17th July, 1843. Music—Downfall of Paris. Song—by Mr Alexander.

The Memory of Francis Peabody, Esq. In silence.

Sir Howard Douglas, late Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and present Member of Parliament for Liverpool. Music—Duke of York's March. Song—by Captain Kyle.

Good night, and joy be w' you a'. Music—We part to meet again. Song—Auld Langsyne.

The President then vacated the Chair, and all followed at a little more than "a wee short hour ayont the twall," highly gratified with the occurrences of the evening, and looking forward with delight to the next merry meeting.

In responding to the fourth Toast, Mr Street rose and said:—

Mr President and Gentlemen,—It is with no ordinary degree of embarrassment, I rise to return thanks for the honor you have conferred upon the Representatives of this county, in presenting them with this sumptuous Banquet, and in drinking their health in the very handsome and complimentary manner you have just done. I say I rise with no ordinary degree of embarrassment, not that I am unaccustomed to public speaking, (as many of you probably know to your cost, so far as having your patience occasionally taxed) but from an apprehension that I may not express myself as I ought, and as you may expect on the occasion; and secondly, from feeling that the honor and responsibility of returning thanks devolves solely upon me, in consequence of the unexpected and unavoidable absence of my friend and colleague, Mr Rankin, whose absence from this festive board this evening, cannot be otherwise than a source of regret to us all. I trust however, Mr President, that if I should, as I much fear, fail in properly conveying to you my sentiments, you will not attribute such failure to any want of a proper appreciation of the compliment and honor, on my part.

Mr President—I have not the vanity to receive this compliment as personal to the members of the county. No, Sir. I view it as something far, very far, beyond that. This

banquet, and the Toast you have just drunk with so much enthusiasm, although highly gratifying to my feelings as an individual, I receive as intended, viz: as a mark of approbation of the public conduct of your Representatives, after a trial of some twelve or thirteen years on my part, and some sixteen or eighteen on the part of my honorable colleague, and as a tribute of respect to the political principles by which your Representatives have been guided in the discharge of their Legislative functions. In this view I trust I shall be pardoned if I trespass a few moments upon your time, in taking a retrospective view of those political principles which have ever been my guide (and I may add that of my colleague) since I have been in public life.

Gentlemen—some twelve or thirteen years ago, when I first had the honor of presenting myself before you as a candidate for your suffrages, I stated to you that "I was" (what is now called) "a Conservative in principle, a firm admirer of the British Constitution, that glorious Constitution under which we have the happiness to live, and devotedly attached to British connexion, and the Laws and Institutions of the mother country. That while I should ever feel it my duty to afford support to the Government of the country, I would yield to none in maintaining the just rights of my fellow subjects, and by every honest and constitutional means, use my best exertions to redress any abuses that might be found to exist; that while on the one hand I should at all times stand firm in maintaining and upholding the just prerogative of the Crown, I should never be found wanting in exertion to resist and expose any improper and injudicious exercise thereof in this province, by those in authority."

Such, Gentlemen, were the political principles I enunciated when I first received from your hands one of the most sacred trusts, which British subjects can place in the hands of a fellow citizen, viz: the right to assist in making laws and regulations for the government of your persons, your property, and life itself; and such are the political principles I have ever been guided by, since I first came into public life, and such they will ever continue to be. I ask, Gentlemen, both friend and foe to examine my political career; yes, I will say, my career both in public and private life, and I challenge them to show an instance in which I have deviated from those principles.

Such then, Gentlemen, are the political principles, you have this day assembled to do honor to. Such the political principles to which you have paid this handsome and flattering tribute of respect. In this view of the matter, Gentlemen, can I feel otherwise than gratified, and proud to find myself a Representative of a Constituency, who not only entertain those high, loyal, and conservative principles, but possess British feeling and British courage to avow and maintain them at all hazards, and on all occasions.

Gentlemen—I should indeed possess a heart of stone, as some have said I do a frame of iron, if I did not feel gratified by being your Guest at this Banquet, and by being thus honored, (as who would not?) as one of your Representatives.

Gentlemen—on behalf of my worthy colleague, (who, if he were present, would, I am sure, respond to all I have said) and on behalf of myself, I beg leave to thank you—which I do from my heart—for the honor you have done us individually, and for this gratifying and honorable tribute of respect to those political principles, we have ever felt it our duty to maintain and support in the exercise of our Legislative functions.

Gentlemen—I fear I am trespassing; but there are one or two remarks I beg leave to make before I sit down, connected with the late unfortunate difference between the Executive Government and the House of Assembly. In making these remarks, Gentlemen, I beg it to be understood, that it is far from my wish on this, or any other occasion, to allow one word to escape my lips, calculated to engender strife or kindle party spirit. So far from it, Mr President, it is my sincere desire to see the party feelings and party feuds that have from time to time distracted this fine and flourishing county, sink into oblivion; and I am quite ready to forgive and forget as far as possible; and happy indeed should I be, Mr President, if the inhabitants on both sides of the river, or such of them as are at all embued with party, or local feelings, would bear in mind that their interests are one and the same—that the same interests which promote the prosperity of Newcastle or Douglastown must also that of Chatham, and learn to see the absurdity of allowing this beautiful river, the great artery of our country, and the admiration of all who visit us, that great link of communication between us and the parent state, the great highway for conveying our staple articles of trade to the British market, to be a source of division of feeling, and of discord among us, and simply because there are two sides to the river.

Gentlemen—I have ever felt, and I am sure my honorable colleague has also, as much pleasure and gratification in promoting the in-

terest of the South, as of the North side of the river, and that both are alike entitled to, and have at all times received an equal share of attention from the members of the county, since I have had the honor of serving you.

Gentlemen—if I allowed myself for a moment to be guided or influenced by local feelings in the discharge of my public duties, I should feel I was unworthy of your confidence; and Gentlemen, when I look around this festive board, and see so many good, honest, intelligent Freeholders from every section of the county, far and near, and from both sides of the river, at this busy season of the year too, I cannot but flatter myself that the exertions of my colleague and myself to promote the general prosperity of this fine county, are and will be appreciated by its constituency, the exertions of a few interested individuals to the contrary notwithstanding.

Having said this, Gentlemen, I now beg leave to call your attention to the difference between the Executive Government and the House of Assembly, the last winter. It is with reluctance I allude to this circumstance, inasmuch as some of my constituents have, I am aware, signed an address to His Excellency in approval of the conduct of the Government on that question. It is not my purpose here, Mr President, to remark upon the manner in which that address was got up, or the undue means that were resorted to, to obtain signatures thereto. These facts are pretty well known to you all. Suffice it to say on that subject, that the address in question, it is well known, emanated from a member of the Executive, who supported the appointment, which gave rise to the difficulty, and whose interest it therefore was to create an impression that the country would sustain the Government. But it would not do. My principal and main object in here alluding to this difference, Mr President, is, that some people have assigned as a reason, I know, for signing the address in question, not that they approved of the appointment, but that the House of Assembly, by addressing Sir Charles Metcalfe, the Governor General in Canada, in 1844, laid the foundation for the conduct of the Government of this Province on the present occasion, and that the House of Assembly last winter, in remonstrating by an humble address to Her Most Gracious Majesty, against this appointment, were acting in opposition to those principles they complimented Sir Charles (now Lord Metcalfe) in sustaining in the winter of 1844; than which nothing can be more erroneous. Any person, Sir, who will take the trouble to look at Sir Charles Metcalfe's reply to the address from the men of Gore, published in the *Loyalist* of date—February, 1844, will see the principles of Colonial Government enunciated by Sir Charles on that occasion in reference to the dispute between him and his Council, and also look to the Journals of the House of Assembly of this Province, under date of 21st February, 1844, will there see that the House of Assembly of this Province by a solemn resolution, supported Sir Charles Metcalfe's views of Colonial Government, as by him defined in his reply to that address; and the House of Assembly in their address to Sir Charles Metcalfe in 1844, was only supporting the views and principles laid down by him as those by which the Governor of a Colony should be guided. Now Sir, let any person, who chooses to take the trouble, look at the proceedings of the House of Assembly this last winter, and their address to the throne, and he will at once see that the whole proceedings were predicated and built upon those constitutional principles of Colonial Government, as defined and laid down by Sir Charles Metcalfe in his memorable reply to the Men of Gore; which principles had been previously received and recognized by the present Home Government as correct, and again by Her Most Gracious Majesty in a compliance with the address of our House to the throne, the last winter, thereby clearly recognizing as correct and constitutional, the stand of the House of Assembly, and as erroneous the conduct of the Executive Government.

Mr President—I fear I have already trespassed too long; I shall therefore sit down, assuring you, that after returning to my own quiet home, and reflecting upon the proceedings of the House of Assembly last winter, so firmly convinced am I, that the course I then pursued, and that the House pursued in this question, was correct, that if the proceedings were to be again gone over, I should pursue the same course, from a sense of duty, and a conviction in my own mind that the one that was pursued was, under the circumstances, right and correct.

In reply to the 12th Toast, Mr End rose and said:—That from having spent many of his early years in Northumberland, the circumstance of meeting at this table with so many of those persons with whom he had been so long in habits of intimacy in days gone by; the recollections of many who had passed away, but who might be said to be still alive in the actions around this board—those things, he said, might be supposed to excite emotions