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

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Provincial Legislature OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. DEBATE ON THE LATE DESPATCH.

[Continued from our last.]

Mr. Barbicé said he had a few remarks to make upon this subject, he had prepared himself with an amendment which he should have offered, but his hon. and learned friend (Mr. End) had superseded him with one of pretty much the same import. He could not remain silent upon so important an occasion as this; he could not suffer this resolution to pass without expressing his views upon the subject, and also of recording them on the journals. He was of opinion that this country was not yet prepared for this despatch. A new Governor would be here in a few days, and it should have been left to him to act in the matter as he saw fit, he was of opinion that the House should be dissolved and that they should go to the people, and ask them if they were satisfied to return men who would advocate the carrying into effect, the terms of this despatch: this would have been the proper course to have pursued, and in the mean time it should have remained *in statu quo*. They had been told that this despatch must be adopted as the whole, and not a part: it was getting late in the day, but he felt he could not do this subject justice without going through this document paragraph by paragraph, (cries of *go on*.) Did he hear the hon. and learned mover of the original resolution say that that noble, high minded and statesman-like nobleman, Sir Charles Metcalf, had been humbugged and hoodwinked? (Mr. Fisher, I said so) well he had stated what was not a fact: Sir Charles was surrounded by a hungry set of office seekers, who sought to prostrate the prerogative of the crown, that they and their favorites might enjoy all the offices themselves, this was the fact. Look to Nova Scotia and witness some of the 'blessings' resulting from the operations of this despatch: what had they done there?—the moment the other party got in power, they made a clean sweep of it, even to the door keepers of the assembly, and now the very strongest advocate for Responsible Government (Joseph Howe) was flying directly into the teeth of this despatch, by accepting of the office of Secretary and Clerk of the Executive Council both, when the Despatch lays down that they should be divided. This despatch recommended the appointment of two officers hitherto unknown in this country, viz—*a Financial Secretary and a chief of*—here were two more officers to be paid for out of the public chest. (Hear! hear!) Earl Grey had expressed his confidence in those men who were now in Nova Scotia from their 'sober estimate' of the capabilities of their country. These men had certainly proved themselves capable of forming a 'sober estimate, by turning out even the door-keepers, because they did not happen to think as they did—this was a very sober estimate certainly. But to the despatch, he could not see how it was possible to assimilate the Constitution and Government of this small colony to that of the Empire of Great Britain; he supposed when they got this despatch into operation the Province would grow larger, and we would become big men; he could imagine some of his hon. friends clothed in the robes of Office standing round: one of them Attorney General, another Solicitor General, and a third Secretary of the Province; they would fancy themselves 'Lords of creation' then, (laughter.) [here followed a quotation from Shakspear which from the noise I could not catch, and which I at this moment forget.

'Man—clothed in a little brief authority' &c. &c. (Much laughter.) Where he would ask, in this country was there a man, who would deny himself the comforts of his own home in the country, and accept an office to reside in Fredericton, with the uncertainty of holding it for two or three years perhaps; he doubted if such men were to be found, and the result would be this; it would be confined to comparatively a few Individuals, and they would be pulled and hauled about, with one saying—O, you must support us—and another at the other side tormenting you, with—you must support me. God knows it was bad enough at present but under the new system there would be an eternal hubbub. (Hon. Mr. Hazen—who'd work without pay.) Who would do the work without pay? who was it that done it before?—look at Canada where all those high Officers under Government were paid from £10 to £1500 a year these men were now living in hired lodgings in Montreal away from their homes, and what was the reason of this? Because the tenure of office was uncertain, they were but birds of

passage, and the effect of this would be—that much of the important business connected with those offices would be entrusted to subordinates. Some hon. members talked about being liberal &c. now he would take the hon. and learned member from St. John; (Mr. Ritchie), he (Mr. B.) was more liberal than he; he (Mr. B.) would have no objections to see that hon. and learned gentleman appointed Attorney General of the Province tomorrow, provided he dose his work well, and he would have no objections to see him hold it for life;—this officer in his opinion, had a sufficient duty to perform, without meddling himself with politics: now would he (Mr. Ritchie) be willing to say this of him?—no! he thought not, then (Mr. B.) was the most liberal of the two.

But those liberal minded gentlemen would make a clean sweep—turn them all out; and as a certain Editor remarked the other day in his paper—they would not leave enough for seed. Such a remark was well worthy the animal it sprang from. But to show how beautifully this new system worked he would relate the following. A friend of his not long since had occasion to go to Montreal on some business connected with the Crown Land Department: he called upon the head of that office, and found him in the Assembly, which was then sitting; that gentleman told him, it would be impossible to attend to his matter, there was such a press of public business just at that time, and it was impossible for him to tell what his predecessor had done in the matter until he examined &c. &c. Well, his friend went away up the country for six weeks and then he returned and called again—the same story was told him then, as before and the result was he could get no satisfaction. Now this would be the case here by introducing Departmental Government; those officers could not attend to the duties of their offices, and study politics too. If the principles of this despatch were carried out, the Government would be just as powerless as it was at present, unless the initiation of the money grants was given up into their hands. He was not satisfied that the resolution was wanted at all, but as he had seen the amendment moved by his hon. and learned friend, [Mr. End] he would be happy to vote for it. As he before remarked, they should go to their constituencies, before the principles of this despatch should be introduced, it was only fair that the people should have a voice in so important a matter. If they were willing to receive it he would then have no objections to its going into operation. But no hon. member has yet informed the committee what the benefits of this system would be to this Province; he could not see what more they wanted, they could turn out any officer now by an address to the throne; they had done so during the time of Lord Glenelg, and in the late case of the Provincial Secretary, and could do so again: they did not want Responsible Government to this, and he would live to see the day when the people of this country would have cause to complain of their public officers if the principles of this despatch were carried out.

Hon. L. A. Wilmot said the hon. and learned member had asked, what benefit would result to the people of this country from the operations of this despatch, he would tell him something about this to-morrow; he intended to contrast the past political history of the Province with its present condition and constitution; and he would then give them something to handle, but as it was now growing late, and as he did not wish to be tied down to a very narrow compass, he would not trespass upon their patience.

Progress was then reported in the debate, with the understanding that the debate would be resumed after the reading of the journals next morning. House adjourned at five o'clock.

At an early hour this morning, every seat within hearing of the Hall of the Assembly, was occupied with persons of every grade. The lobby and gallery of the House was crowded to suffocation, and in the Speaker's room I noticed among many others, His Hon. the Chief Justice, Judge Street, and Officers of the Army &c. &c. Shortly after 11 o'clock on motion of Mr. Woodward, the adjourned order of the day was taken up, and the House went into committee in further consideration of His Excellency's messages; Col. Hayward in the Chair.

Mr. Woodward rose, and opened the day's debate by observing, that he presumed it was only necessary to catch the eye of the eye of the chairman in order to proceed with this discussion, without further preliminaries. He did not intend making a speech; but he felt it due to himself, to make a few remarks upon the resolutions then before them. He had always been among the number of those who had advocated the introduction of the principles contained in the Despatch; he was therefore favourable to the resolution moved

by his hon. and learned friend from York, (Mr. Fisher,) and hoped it would pass in this Committee by a large majority. It had been insinuated that there was more in this Despatch than appeared on the face of it; that there was something hidden about it, and like it was in the case of his hon. and learned friend's resolution last year—there was initiation in it. He was prepared at any moment to allow the Executive to take the initiation in money matters; he thought it would be an improvement upon their present system, they could then have no excuse to offer, in not bringing forward measures for the benefit of the country. He would yield up his power to any Government that might be formed. He congratulated the house, the country, and himself too, that these principles were now about to become the constitution of the country; his hon. and learned friend from the city (Mr. Ritchie) had congratulated the advocates of those principles yesterday, and he (Mr. W.) had taken a share of the compliment to himself. They had advocated those principles, when they got nothing but abuse and obliquity; but he trusted those days were now over. He had been returned as a member for the City of St. John three different times with those principles; neither did he believe any man was rejected at the last election, because he adhered to them. Hon. members had objected to the principles of this Despatch, because they feared there would be a constant going in and out of office; but he thought, that so long as public men, and public officers continued to do their duty well, it would be a difficult matter to get up a factitious opposition, the people of this province had been too long imposed upon; but they had borne it all patiently, and with a good government, it would be no easy matter to return men to oppose it, the arguments of his hon. and learned friends (Messrs. End and Barbicé) were therefore fallacious, and the difficulties which they had raised, purely imaginary. He could not agree with what had fallen from his hon. and learned friend, (Mr. Ritchie) when he said that it was not right for those who had opposed those principles, to be the first now to exclaim, we'll take them. Those hon. members had a perfect right to change their opinions; and in his opinion they rather deserved credit than otherwise, for acknowledging their former errors. His hon. and learned colleague (Mr. Hazen) had become a convert to these principles since 1843, and he had a perfect right to declare his conversion. He (Mr. Hazen) had stated in answer to a question from the hon. and learned member from Gloucester, that five years would tell about the workings of this despatch; now he [Mr. W.] was of opinion, that he [Mr. H.] should have come out boldly, and declared what his belief in the matter was; this would have been the more open and manly course, if he (Mr. H.) had doubts about the beneficial working of those principles, would he not rather throw obstacles in the way, than assist in carrying them out, and giving them a fair trial. He [Mr. W.] had been forcibly struck with the remarks of his hon. and learned friend [Mr. Ritchie] yesterday upon this point; and he [Mr. W.] thought he at least, would have satisfied himself upon this point, before adopting any opinions or principles. But he would say no more just now; they had had the history of reform yesterday from the learned mover of the resolution, [Mr. Fisher] and his hon. and learned (Mr. Wilmot) had yet to speak, who could handle the subject in a much superior manner than himself. He would therefore conclude by once more congratulating the friends of reform, and the country generally upon the terms of this Despatch; and the final introduction of those principles for which they have so long contended.

Mr. Brown said that he felt most anxious to get along with the business of the country, and should therefore make a short speech upon this occasion. He agreed entirely with the hon. and learned member of the Government, [Mr. Hazen] that this Despatch was not sent to this colony for our discussion, but it came rather in the shape of a command to do so and so. He was one of those who had long predicted that this would come sooner or later, and had warned hon. members of the necessity of preparing for it, and he believed that in a great measure they were so. He had watched the progress of those principles for years, and had heard them discussed from time to time on the floors of that House, with perfect good feeling and friendship; as became men and Legislators; and he hoped they would always continue so to act. They who had sought to introduce those principles into this country, called Rebels! Democrats! Republicans! Radicals! and lastly it had softened down to the milder term of Liberals; and now, those very men who had called them all those hard names, were taking the name of 'Liberals' to themselves so that in reality it was difficult to distinguish, at the present day, the difference between them. He had

listened a whole day last summer, to the two great political champions of Nova Scotia. The Honorables Howe, and Stewart: they seemed to be arguing against each other, but in reality there was but little difference between them, so far as political opinions went. Previous to the year 1838, the people of England had only a Legislative power; this gave rise to heart burnings and discontent. After a while they introduced the principles, that only such men as possessed the confidence of the people should be appointed to office. Those principles had gradually extended themselves to this country, and when Lord Durham came out to Canada, he brought out those principles with him, and notwithstanding all the names that were heaped upon the advocates of these principles, they gradually found their way into New-Brunswick, and finally into that House. He [Mr. Brown] had frequently been amused at witnessing the movements of persons opposed to those principles in that House, when they were all the time working out, and clearing the way for their introduction. The hon. and learned member of the present Government (Mr. Hazen) was appointed to the Executive Council in 1843; and shortly after this he came down and declared on the floor of that House that he would resign his seat, upon the Assembly declaring their want of confidence in the Government. So far then, the principles of Responsible Government were acknowledged. They got along there very well for a time, notwithstanding the predictions and croaking of a certain class, who were opposed to any thing like reform; but the motion was very tardy. His hon. and learned friend [Mr. Hazen] then said the Departmental Government would not answer in this Colony; and perhaps it was not then necessary, but now comes the Despatch from Earl Grey, and the new tenure might now be said to be in operation. He was a moderate man, and had always been so and was not an advocate for extreme measure God forbid that they should run into extremes, the predictions of the hon. and learned member for Restigouche [Mr. Barbicé] would then be verified, these principles—the principles of this Despatch—were but human in their origin, and like all human institutions, perfection was not to be found therein, and should not be expected. But should they imitate the man, who having his ship laden and ready to be put to sea, kept her moored to the wharf, lest a storm should arise, and all would be lost—cast away; he hoped not, they had now the ship of state all ready, and he trusted she would go forth on her voyage, regardless of any storm; it was necessary to keep moving, they should never be content to stand still.

He had no wish to prolong this debate; he could see no good to be effected by it, the die was cast, and all they could say or do in the matter would have no effect. He was favourable to the original resolution; but could not see the necessity for any expression of opinion upon the subject; the despatch was now the acknowledged constitution of the country; and as he remembered hearing a minister say to his congregation upon one occasion—there it was and if they didn't like it they might jump it. His hon. and learned friend from Gloucester [Mr. End], had asked what good it was going to effect in this country; my Lord Grey had said in the despatch, then before them, that these principles had been found to work well in England; and this he considered a sufficient answer to that question; so long as New Brunswick was a British Colony, they should never reject any vital part of the glorious constitution of England, as inapplicable; God forbid they should ever do so. But hon. members feared or pretended to fear, that by adopting this despatch the initiation of money grants, would have to be given in to the hands of the executive; this political bug-bear had been sounded last year, when it debated upon the resolution moved by his hon. and learned friend from York (Mr. Fisher), hon. members were led to believe, that there was some hidden meaning—something wrapped up therein which did not meet the eye, and although the resolution was as clear and plain, as the English language could make it, it was rejected. He believed the right initiation was inherent in the people, and had only been surrendered in England because of the great difficulty in finding the proper channels for the revenue to flow through; how was it possible for the Commons of England to direct the expenditure of her vast revenue, throughout a dominion over which the sun never set. It was therefore given up to the government who had better means of acquiring correct information upon this point; and when they had arrived to that point in this country, then it would be proper to follow the example of the mother country. But hon. members need not labor under the apprehension, that by adopting the principles of this Despatch, they would have to yield up this right, it did not follow by any means, he would hold on to the initiation of