

touched with compassion on beholding his pale countenance expressive of deep despair.

"Yes," exclaimed Weber, whose heart melted with pity, and who had mistook his meaning; "yes, to-morrow I shall come and see you. Yes, I shall assist you with my advice and the interest of my friends."

The unknown shook his head, raised his eyes to heaven, and took leave of Weber.

Next day, when the latter, faithful to his promise, approached the unfortunate man's house, he perceived a large crowd gathered about it. He drew near a party of policemen: they were conveying away the corpse of a man who had hanged himself in the night, and in whose room, according to a neighbor's statement, nothing had been found but a wretched trundle bed, and a large heap of burned papers. None knew the name of the man who, for two years past, had gone out drunk every morning, and returned drunk every night. Weber recognised the dead body. Impelled by a sorrowful curiosity, he followed into the suicide's room a host of people, who amused themselves in exploring it, and he happened to pick up a fragment of music paper. As he perused it a tear ran down his cheeks. The half-burned fragment was an admirable chorus of huntsmen. From a pious recollection of the poor unknown musician, who had thus destroyed himself, Carl Maria Von Weber inserted the piece into the opera he was then composing—the immortal *Der Freyschütz*.

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the Saint John Morning News.

IS THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS PROVINCE, AS AT PRESENT CONSTITUTED, ENTITLED TO PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

Mr Editor,

Time would fail me to point out other absurdities and inconsistencies, which have marked the political career of our leading Tories. Enough, however, I think has been said, to convince every one that such men are not to be trusted, and that the Government as at present constituted, is undeserving of public confidence. Our Tories don the mantle of Responsible Government with such a bad grace, that they appear very awkward in it. They recall to my mind a Yankee anecdote.

A cooper, down east, finding considerable difficulty, in keeping one of the heads of a cask he was finishing, in its place, put a great awkward looking fellow who was standing beside him, inside to hold the head up. After completing the work, he was astonished to find the man headed up, and there being no other way to get him out, the cooper tried to pull him through the bung-hole. The Liberals in putting up the cask—Responsible Government—at length manage to get the Tories to catch hold of the work; but they go on the wrong side of the cask—and the arguments they have crawled through are just about as contracted as the bung-hole in question. But I wish to draw this wire out to a still finer thread—may reduce it to a single point, and I fail to make out a case, I shall never attempt to record my opinions again. In the Session of 1847, Mr Fisher moved the following resolution, viz:

"Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that while it fully recognises the accountability of the Executive Council, to the assembly, it will expect that henceforth the Provincial Administration will from time to time prepare and bring before the Legislature such measures as may be required for the development of the Provincial resources, and the general advancement of the public interests."

Immediately Mr End jumped and moved an amendment, to the effect that the House of Assembly were unwilling to give up the initiation of the money grants. No this amendment was as much out of place as anything could be. It was worse than a 6th wheel to a coach.—The original resolution had no reference whatever to the initiation of the money grants—for the Executive could introduce measures without having the money at their disposal. Mr Fisher saw this, or he would not have called upon the executive to give up Mr End's amendment was a mere ruse de guerre, in order to stave off the question obliging the executive council to introduce measures, or consequently to do away with the principles of responsibility to the House—for there can be no available responsibility without acts. The amendment was supported by Mr Partelow and Mr Hazen, and having gone that way, it proves these gentlemen to be enemies and not friends to Responsible Government. I mention their names because they are conspicuous members of the present council. As to the course the debate took, and the final decision of the House, it matters not to us. It is enough for my argument to show that the gentleman voted against Mr Fisher's motion.

But the tergiversation of one of their honorable body is rendered still more palpable, when in the course of a subsequent debate, he declared that it was impossible for the Executive to introduce, and carry out measures, without having the money at their disposal. Sir, is there any meaning in words—is there any argument in actions? If so, what are the conclusions we must come to? In the first place, the hon. gentleman is unwilling that the council shall have the initiation of the money votes—in the second place he says, how can the council work, without having the initiation of the money votes? These are contradictions that cannot be reconciled.—And the conclusion we come to, is anything but favourable to this gentleman's political standing.

Now what is, or should be, the object of a Government? Surely not merely to sit as the dispensers of patronage. (Even in this the new government have proved themselves anything but the friends of equal justice—for every important appointment made to office since the re-construction, proves them to be tainted with the old leaven, and particular friends of the old camp followers. Mr Botsford's appointment as clerk of the Legislative Council, and Mr Street as Mayor of St John, are characteristic evidences without any others. I do not wish to mention names, but the circumstances of the case oblige me). The duty of the Government, I repeat it, is not, or should not be, merely confined to the dispensing of patronage, they should also take counsel of those things that belong to our social, political and commercial welfare. Being men, as is presumed, who possess a general knowledge of the country, its capabilities and our requirements, it is expected that knowledge shall be exercised, not for selfish ends, but in a practical way, with a view of developing the resources of the Province—no pointing out the way in which our minerals may be raised—our fisheries prosecuted—and the industry of the inhabitants generally, directed to advantage. Will the present Government then work together for good? Are they to be trusted beyond their own professions and acts? If we take their professions we must also take all the hypocrisy and prevarications which I have endeavored to show up, and place them in juxtaposition. Then here our confidence becomes staggered. Are they to be trusted beyond their acts? If so, what do their acts prove? They prove by voting against Mr Fisher's resolution, that the present Cabinet do not intend to do anything for the good of the country—that the Province may go to grass, and then to seed for aught they care—that the only thing of concern with them is—themselves!

I have endeavored to shew why the Executive Council, as at present constituted, is undeserving of public confidence, as follows: 1st. Because by the vacillating policy of certain of its members, in the cases of Sir Charles Metcalf and Sir Wm. Colebrooke, upon a fundamental principle of Responsible Government, they proved themselves to be dishonest politicians. 2dly. That by voting against Mr Fisher's resolution, in order to stave off the principle of Responsibility to the Assembly, they proved that they were not friendly to Responsible Government. And in the 3rd, and last place, I wish to show that so far from the present coalition Government being of service to the Province, it will be a positive evil; and in treating under this figure, I am sorry to say that I shall be constrained to throw an arrow over the house, even though it should wound a brother.

When we had Mr. Wilmot and Mr. Fisher in opposition to the "compact," we had strong hopes that the day was fast approaching when the Tory nest would be broken up. Last winter Mr. Wilmot, and I believe Mr. Fisher, were invited to join the Executive Council. Mr. Wilmot resisted the invitation unless he could take more of his party in with him, so as to have something like a balance of power. The compact were unwilling to make the concession, consequently there was an end to the negotiations. Since then Mr. Wilmot and Mr. Fisher have been influenced to change their minds. They have gone into that very cabinet that was before so obnoxious to them; and if they succeeded in satisfying themselves, they also succeeded, to a demonstration, in astonishing their friends. It is to be hoped that those honorable gentlemen will clear up, next winter, the mystery that hangs over them like a cloud, to the satisfaction of all parties. But in the mean while, there they are;—and we are bound to judge of them by the company they keep. I look upon it as one of the most "unholy alliances" that was ever jumbled together within the compass of a political circle. Mr. Fisher has told us in his "confession of faith" that the Tories have gone over to the Liberal side and are now in favor of Responsible Government; but, Sir, I think that I have said enough to convince your readers that such is far from being the fact. If there has been any change in politics, it must be rung out of Messrs. Wilmot and Fisher. "Save me from my friends," is an old axiom. Babelton's good intentions more than once got his friend Tom Burke into trouble. Had Mr. Fisher kept his reasons for joining the enemy, out of print, he would have done better service to his party, and better justice to himself; for so long as there was any mystery in the way, we were obliged to think that there was something satisfactory to be cleared up. The reasons published are anything but to the purpose. I would end this paragraph by adding that if Mr. Wilmot supports the do-nothing policy, with as much force of talents as he formerly opposed the Government, in the House, then, after that—but, I should not pass judgment until he has been tried.

I did intend to view the Tory manœuvring with respect to Earl Gray's despatch adopted by them last winter, wherein they pretend a love for Departmental Government—and under which despatch Mr. Partelow has wedged himself into office. Their inconsistency of conduct in this instance is no less absurd than in the other cases I have pointed out. They say they are in favor of Departmental Government;

and yet the very officer who is required in the Council, is turned out—I mean the Surveyor-General. I shall at another time take up this matter. It is a fertile subject, and requires to be dwelt upon at some length.

To conclude for the present. The times, Mr. Editor, are full of interest. Old systems, old theories, based upon nothing better than old prejudices, are fast passing away. On a recent occasion, in the British Parliament, Lord Stanley observed—"No man in these days is allowed to stand still—improvement must go on." We find all the nations of the old world in commotion. England herself, that fast-anchored isle of the sea, has had her trouble. But there is too much mind engaged in her national struggles, to awaken alarm for her safety. Under her imitable constitution, the people and the monarch exist in good relation. The maladies that show themselves in her body-politic, are yielding; the cure is within the reach, and may be applied, by the sound discretion of an intelligent people, every elector having an indirect vote in the councils of his country. An Englishman's birth-right is the liberty of speech; and his pride is to maintain that liberty unswayed. What think we in New Brunswick! We belong to the same Government, and the same constitutional privileges are ours; and we can only prove ourselves worthy of the inheritance, by understanding how to esumate its blessings. Hitherto we have stood fast. The attention of the people has been absorbed in their business pursuits; the principles by which they were governed gave them little or no concern—consequently their political interests, so highly prized by an Englishman, have been left to the machinations of unprincipled Legislators; and the result is before us—in an impoverished chest, a redundant debt, and a crippled commerce. In the language of Junius, the cause of New Brunswick, "should not be the cause of party, nor yet the cause of faction; but the cause of every true and loyal British subject." We inhabit a fine country. Nature has spread out a bountiful repast before us. Our young men have life, blood, and vigor, coursing in their veins. And yet with all these advantages, our people leave their native shores in disgust, to seek a living in a foreign land which is denied to them at home. We live in a small country, it is true; but our interests are as important to us as though we lived in a larger. Every day sunders the ties that connect us with the world, but while we live, our mental as well as physical energies should be expended in the service of our country. Our fathers have hewn out this city from a rock. They began their work in the dark days of anarchy and revolution. We, their descendants, have the light of peace and science to cheer us onward, and we should improve our opportunities, that our children may look back and say, that we, their fathers, have been worthy of our fathers. I call upon the citizens of St. John—I call upon the active young men of the Province—to look to their Government—to watch their Legislators—to inquire into, and make themselves conversant with, the workings of the British Constitution; and then say for themselves whether those men who profess so much in favor of British Theories, carry out their principles in British Practices. By lax systems our revenues have been squandered. Our Province has been sunk in debt. We groan under unjust taxation, enormous salaries, and useless sinecures. Our trade and commerce are annihilated. England has abandoned her colonies. Our hives of industry are closed. Our artisans walk about the streets in idleness; and the people generally are discouraged and discontented. A feeling of condescension with the adjoining Republic appears to have sprang up in our midst. Men no longer conceal their thoughts and aspirations. Our very atmosphere is fetid with the disaffected spirit of the age. Dependence upon England appears now to be dependence upon nothing. Must this state of things continue? Let the people say, No! Let them rise up in their strength, throughout the Province, and tell the Queen's Representative that we expect measures of relief from his advisers. There is a great deal of political work before us to accomplish, ere the people shall be able to feel the full fruition of better government. But if the same do-nothing policy is to continue in fashion; if the same men are to continue in power; and if the same apathy is to continue to be our characteristic, then we can never expect any permanent change for the better. Nay, if any change, it must be for the worse—and God knows things have nearly come to a pass now. I have no ill feelings against a single member of the Executive Council. As private individuals I esteem them highly; but in common justice to my conscientious convictions, I am bound to state that "the Government of this Province as at present constituted, is undeserving of public confidence." O. P. Q.

I would here state, by way of note, the course which the debate took. As soon as Mr. Fisher moved his resolution, Mr. End moved his amendment, when finally the House adjourned without dividing. Some days afterwards Mr. Fisher introduced his resolution, when Mr. Woodward, in order to anticipate another trick in Mr. End, jumped up and moved an amendment, by merely adding to Mr. Fisher's resolution the words "of this Province," which of course did not affect the ground work of the original resolution. When the House finally divided, Mr. Hazen and Mr. Partelow voted in opposition to Mr. Fisher's working resolution.

From the Gaspe Gazette.

EDUCATION.

There seems to be a lamentable apathy on

the part of the inhabitants of this district, as respects the important subject of education; although Government has, in every Township, contributed towards the erection and furnishing of commodious school houses, nevertheless many of them are without teachers. If a stranger should enquire into the cause, in one place he would be told, "Oh, we are too poor to pay a master, we find it hard enough to feed the youngsters." In another district the excuse would be, "We cannot procure a teacher." In a third, "The School Commissioners do not agree, either amongst themselves, or with the inhabitants, or perhaps some real well disposed School Commissioners, well qualified for his office, has not a property qualification." This is a favourite excuse. Let us now, for a moment, examine into the first apology. "Poverty"—that there may be one or two indigent persons in a community we do not deny, but their poverty is not an excuse; they can send their children to school, the commissioners having it in their power to make an exception in their favor. But there are others who plead poverty, which is a falsehood. How often do they spend money in a tavern, or in a merchant's store, upon articles either injurious or superfluous? We can answer, more than would pay for education. The second, "we cannot procure a teacher"—have they ever advertised, or applied to Dr. Millier, the superintendent upon the subject, stating their willingness to pay an adequate sum to a master. No. They are ashamed to mention the paltry amount they are willing to give. They expect to procure the services of a well educated man for a less sum than they would give a common labourer. This is the case, it rests with themselves.

The fact is, the miserable sum that many townships offer for a teacher, is totally inadequate to secure the services of any respectable competent person, except he has some other course of emolument, and a schoolmaster should be so remunerated, as not to be obliged to look for other means of supporting himself. His whole attention should be devoted to his pupils, and this fact should be constantly kept in mind, that upon the respectability and competency of the instructor, the future welfare, in many instances, of the pupil is connected. But unfortunately, there is not a class of persons so badly paid as schoolmasters; their occupation is anything but a pleasant one, and we are confident the poet was never a schoolmaster, or knew his disheartening duties, when he wrote these lines:

"Delightful task, to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot, &c."

If he resided a short time in Gaspe he certainly would have made an exception.

Another drawback upon education is frequently an "antagonism" between the inhabitants. In a populous township, not many miles from our office, where, by the last returns, there were upwards of three hundred and sixty children, an unfortunate feeling of that nature exists—the Clergyman, the Commissioners, and one or two others disagree amongst themselves. It is not our place to say what party is in error, all we know that the effect is much to be deplored. Hundreds of children of both sexes are growing up in a state of gross ignorance, alike discredit to their parents and guardians, as unfortunate for themselves hereafter.

Parents, are you acting towards your offspring as you are bound by the laws of God? Do you think you are fulfilling the end of your creation by merely feeding and clothing them? Have you any regard for their future respectability? Do you wish them to become good members of society, or "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to others? If their prosperity is any object to you—educate them: if you wish to see them respected, educate them, and if you have no other inheritance to bestow on them, give them, whilst their young minds are susceptible of improvement, EDUCATION.

In the course of our next series, we shall give extracts from that valuable Miscellany, "Chambers's Information for the people," upon the subject of general education.

Communications.

Mr. Pierce.—If you can find a spare corner in your valuable journal, please insert the following lines, gleaned from an old New York Album, and oblige,

A SON OF OLD SCOTIA,
AND A SUBSCRIBER.

SONG.
FAREWELL TO THE LAND OF THE HEATHER.
By J. Graham.

With patriot pride I am bound to the West,
And bless every breeze blows me thither;
Yet fond natal feeling sighs deep in my breast,
Farewell to the land of the heather.

Tho' roughly in nature's vast mould thou wast cast,
Tho' o'er thee the stormy clouds gather,
I love thy rude wilds, and thy bleak mountain blast,
For I drew my first breath on the heather.

And sorrow or care o'er my young playful breast
Had been the sad lodging of either,
In Caledon's plaid and her gay bonnet dress'd,
I played my first sports on the heather.

The first did I spread a fair bow for my love,
To hold our sweet converse together;