

tended with a certain risk. We have known beautiful women who looked at least plain when they cried; and we never knew plain women who did not look—if we may venture to use a profane expression—downright ugly. The reason must be, that the act of weeping distorts the features, just like the act of laughing, while it is unredeemed by the agreeable associations of the latter.

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.

How many men

Have spent their blood in their dear country's service.

Yet now pine under want; while selfish slaves That even would cut their throats whom now they fawn on,

Like deadly locusts, eat the honey up Which those industrious bees so hardly toiled for." Orway.

MR. EDITOR,

The people of this Province, and indeed of all the British North American Provinces, until up to a very recent period, had taken but little interest in those vital matters that concerned their political state. Forming a part of the British empire, separated from the mother land by an ocean three thousand miles wide, and being taught in their earlier days to uphold and venerate everything as English, however un-British; and to look upon our men in place and power as something more than ordinary, and their acts as something superior and indisputable, the colonists had prosecuted their labours, and expended their physical energies without reference to matters equally pressing and equally binding upon their best interests. We have been residing in an age of mental darkness. The light of intelligence, however diffusive, had been slow in revealing to our minds those wholesome truths which, of late, have gained such a meridian height. No wonder then that Nero fiddled while Rome was being destroyed. No wonder then that these provinces were viewed in England as mere nurseries for pampered and overfed official aspirants. Nor is it a matter to excite our marvel, that our progress as colonies in worldly prosperity, has been so tardy, while all the rest of the world has been going at a locomotive pace. Had we looked more to ourselves and less to the colonial office; had we taken the initiative, and asked the British Government to support our Constitutional views, in the way of Colonial reform; in short had the people of these colonies been more true to themselves, and pliable to the family compacts who have exercised such a pernicious influence over them—the North American Provinces at this day would not be what they are—but instead a solid compact body, united in one grand confederacy, and the inhabitants prosperous and contented. Our ancient prejudices, however, are fast giving way. There is a better sort of intelligence abroad, and we find that the colonists are beginning to think, and act for themselves, and to see that they have rights and privileges in common with the Englishmen who reside on the banks of the Thames. Canada took the lead and was soon followed by Nova Scotia, in erecting a political standard, for the people to rally under. And however much and undaunted was the spirit evinced by New Brunswick at an earlier day, when the casual and territorial revenues formed the bone of contention, I am constrained to say that in 1848, we find her in point of political forwardness, and intelligence, far behind her neighbours. It would seem as if the people thought they accomplished everything, when they gained the key to the revenues. Here was the very season they should have been most active—because it was a fresh era in their history. We have now a Government, but it is like a broken cistern, incapable of use, and it is at the mercy of men who have always been averse to reform—nay, of men who have taken every means to oppose it. And this government becomes still more intolerable when we reflect upon the conduct, I had almost said dishonesty, of the vast majority of its members—for, after opposing the new and Constitutional principles as long as they could, and finding themselves on the eve of defeat, they veer round, and for the sake of office, nothing else, tell the people they are in favor of that government they opposed so bitterly; and yet the most disreputable part of their conduct remains to be told. The Liberals who had been struggling for years in the cause of the people, and through whose influence the new principles had been introduced, are politely told, in deeds, if not in words, that they have no right to a share in the government which they (the Liberals) had been the means of securing. They whispered thus—“You have worked out the principles for us. You have struggled hard for colonial reform. You have broken down all the barriers, and paved the way to a new El Dorado. We have done all we could to prevent the new principles obtaining root. Not only so, but we have warned the country against the Liberals, by branding their movements as ‘seditious,’ ‘treasonable,’ ‘unconstitutional.’ Some of pretended, and expressed ourselves to this effect on the Hastings, in order to gain our elections—viz: that we did not know what Responsible Government meant! We knew that the people did not understand its meaning. We, therefore, took advantage of their igno-

rance, and pleaded ignorance ourselves.’ The spirit of reform, however, had assumed too powerful a shape throughout the Colonies—besides the Despatches from the Colonial Office to the various Governors of North America, tended too strongly towards Responsible Government, and they could resist the tide no longer; they then pretended that Responsible Government was a capital thing after all. They did this in order to retain power, and keep the Liberals in the back ground.

When the time came for testing the liberalism and proving the sincerity of the Tory proselytes—what is their conduct? Negotiations are opened between a member of the Government and Mr Wilmot, for forming a new Council. This was in 1847. And although in common justice and honesty to the Liberal party, they ought to have had an equal voice at the board, this was denied them; they might be represented (thought the Tories) but by so vague a minority, that their influence would amount to a nullity. Nor would overtures have been made at all to Mr Wilmot, were it not from the fear of that gentleman's opposition to their glass structure, on the floor of the Assembly. They sought to propitiate his good will. Their object was to paralyze his influence in the house, and making use of him, as a mouth piece, to defend them from the assaults of their opponents, and the suspicions of their friends. The negotiations ended in a failure. And here and there some stern high patriot stood.

Who could not get the place for which he sued." Byron

Mr Wilmot could not be turned aside. He felt that his party was slighted; and that he was to have no voice in organizing the new Government, but had to take whatever dish was prepared for him by the Government House caterers. For this noble stand Mr Wilmot was applauded to the echo. And while the circumstance proved him to be a good patriot, it proved the Executive Council with whom he could not coalesce, to be a set of selfish men. In no better light than this, could their hypocrisy have been made apparent. Why, I would ask, refuse the Liberals an equal number of seats with the Tories? Was it not because the latter were unwilling to amalgamate and divide their power? That they wished to keep the old exclusive system of Government still in existence, and call it by another name? The answer I give is a familiar Parliamentary expression—“There is no doubt of it at all.”

I will now endeavour to prove that the only object the Tories of the present government have to serve, is their own selfish ends—and that they disregard all principles of political honesty and consistency, so long as they can rule. Their conduct was dishonorable by opposing at one time the new principles of government, when they understood them then as well as afterwards, and denouncing its advocates as rebels; and then at another time turning round and telling the country without any remorse of conscience, that they are quite favourable to this Rebellious Government. Their inconsistency presents itself in such divers shapes, that time and space will not permit me to deal with them. I may merely mention a single point in the indictment for the present—and this alone will be enough to find a true bill against them.

You remember Sir, the course pursued in Canada in 1845, when Sir Charles Metcalf made an appointment to office without consulting his Council—and that in consequence his Advisers protested, and resigned their places, and Sir Charles fell back upon the prerogative. The Tories of Canada united to compliment the Governor General for resisting his Cabinet. Nor was this feeling confined to that Province. The Tories in our House of Assembly, embracing the Tories of the present government, ever ready to catch at shadows, got up an address, and sent it to the Governor General, and in that address they told him, in meaning, that he had no right to consult his Council, but exercise the Royal prerogative at discretion, independently of everybody. So far this would have been well enough, for it was carrying out the Tory principle to the letter, however unconstitutional; and however much the Liberals might have despised their acts, they knew how to make allowance for their prejudices. Besides, it furnished an additional proof that they were averse to the principle of Responsibility being carried out in the Colonies. For the sake of liberality and argument let us justify this course of action. If this was their fair bid, they deserved praise for their firmness. Up to this moment the act proved them at least to be honest men, because they spoke as they seemed to feel. But here we are obliged to stop. If they showed any family virtue in 1845 it has been entirely expunged by their subsequent conduct; nay, it proves their virtue to have been of rather a frail texture. Modesty had no blush when those same men, including some of the Council in a year afterwards, signed, though unwittingly, a recantation of their former assertions, at the time when Sir William Colebrooke appointed his son-in-law to office, without obtaining the consent of his Council. What by them was considered perfectly fair and constitutional in Canada, was deemed in New Brunswick, by the same set of men, unjust and unconstitutional. It was a parallel case precisely. They tell Sir Charles Metcalf that he had a right to exercise the prerogative as he thought fit. They tell Sir William Colebrooke afterwards, that he has no discretion in the matter. That he must be influenced by what his Council says.

But they go farther, even farther than the Lafontaine Cabinet did in Montreal. They came out from the Council. They aim to extinguish Sir William Government in as factious a spirit as was ever charged to the Liberals of Canada. Messrs. Johnston, Chandler, Hazen

and Wilmot, were the gentlemen who resigned. And their resignation was immediately followed by a resolution, moved by Mr Partelow, expressive of a want of confidence in the fragment that still hung about the Governor in his difficulties. They retaliated with a vengeance. They proved themselves to be seditious spirits and political jugglers ready to jump any way—for, with the exception of Mr Wilmot, they all signed the laudatory epistle dedicated to Sir Charles Metcalf the year before. They published their reasons too, for opposing the Governor—and such reasons! The three first gentlemen united in one epistle and expounded their constitutional dogmas; whilst Mr Wilmot performed the more manly part, by coming out in a distinct letter on his account, as though he could not fraternise with them in their sentiments. The arguments of the compact document may be summed up in a few words. They thought the office of Provincial Secretary ought to have been given to some well tried public servant, a native of the Province. In reality that it ought to have been given to one of the Family Compact, if not to one of themselves. Mr Wilmot's argument was, that the office ought to have been given to some one in whom the country had confidence, as a reward for his public service in the Legislature. Mr Wilmot's view of the case was perfectly constitutional, whilst the other was glaringly selfish. Aye, and they were determined to carry the war still farther into the camp. They knew the strength of their influence in the Assembly, and they pressed almost every member into their service, upon a whining address they had prepared to send across the Atlantic, in order to have the objectionable Secretary turned out. The argument of that address was about as base and hyperbolic as was shown in their previous document to the Governor, when they withdrew from his Cabinet. Now they wished to tell the Colonial Secretary that they were devoted servants of Responsible Government as expounded by Sir Charles Metcalf to the men of Gore; and yet a short time previous to this, they voted against two resolutions that had been introduced favourable to the very same principles Sir Charles Metcalf had so heartily approved of. They also tell my Lord Stanley, that the whole country is indignant at the appointment—and this too, because the Governor happened to bestow the favor on his own son-in-law, and not upon an old servant of the Province. They succeeded, and Mr Reade was once more reduced to the ranks; and who became his successor? Tell it only in New Brunswick, but no where else. Why, one of themselves—a ‘compact’ man, and not a ‘constitutional’ man was the lucky recipient.

To be continued.

Communications.

MR. EDITOR.—An appearance presented itself on the evening of the 17th November, 1848, Friday, from about 8 till 10 or 11 o'clock, which, in its varied splendor and magnificence, has not been seen for a number of years in Miramichi. On my first observing it, there appeared to be a radiated nucleus of light in the zenith of the celestial hemisphere, and the illumination diffused itself over the whole concave of the heavens; and in its changeable nature gathered occasionally in brilliant collections of a rich mellow, yellowish color, and sometimes of a florid flame color, tinged with rather a warm greenish hue at the pendent extremities. Sometimes the illumination maintained such a brilliant hue that no difficulty whatever would be undergone in reading ordinary print. At times it would assume the semblance of translucent drapery, enriched with all the hues of the rainbow. I particularly observed at one time that the Southern part of the sky, near the horizon, was very luminous, resembling the light emitted by phosphorescent substances; and at another place the light was of a deep carmine hue, changing in its fugitive splendor to lake and vermilion. Anon, rich and mellow masses of light, in very irregular grouping, would coruscate in a direction towards the horizon, and gradually diffuse itself over all the heavens. The stars appeared to shine with a softer light, and appeared as through a dim transparency. In its various transmutations, I observed that the whole concave was surrounded by concentric belts, or sheets of irregular circles, the zenith forming the centre, and the flashing rapidly that accompanied it was a prominent characteristic. The occasion of such appearances has formed an enigma in the chronicles of the scientific philosopher, and we must wait in silence till that period arrives when the lamp of Science will illuminate the barren wilderness of Ignorance; when the mysteries of nature will thoroughly be investigated, and her hidden secrets be universally divulged. In departing from the secondary cause of this phenomenon, we know the primary cause of this splendid meteorological appearance. He whose arm behind the scenes has elevated them from non-existence, as an incentive to elevate the souls of men to the contemplation of the vast and incomprehensible majesty which His works enshroud him with. And as we silently direct our attention to the desultory mutations of this unaccountable phenomena, let us impress our minds with the continued presence of Him “whom no man hath seen or can see; the pavilion of whose throne is amidst the Heaven of Heavens, and who, amidst all his august and bewildering creations, deigns to look on human existence with an eye of pity and of love.

PHRENOGASTO.

Chatham, Nov. 18, 1848.

N. B.—I have been informed by C. J. Peters, Esq., that on the same day of the month, 13 years since, a similar appearance manifested itself.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Mr. Pierce.—Would you have the goodness to give me a little information (if in our power), through the medium of your Journal, touching the Mechanic's Institute. Is the institution still in existence? or has it, like every other thing in Miramichi, gone down. If it is still alive, why has the following Resolution, taken from the Constitution, not been attended to, viz:

“Regular meetings of the Institute shall take place quarterly, of which the annual meeting shall be one; and of each of which meetings the Secretary shall give one week's previous notice in the local newspaper.”

The Annual Meeting (at which the office bearers are elected) should have been held, according to the rules, on the second Monday in October.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

A MEMBER.

Chatham, Nov. 20, 1848.

[We are sorry we cannot give our correspondent any satisfactory information on the subject. It is the Secretary's duty to attend to the matters complained of, and we would therefore advise “A Member” to request of him an explanation of this neglect of duty.]—ED. GLEANER.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, NOV. 21, 1848.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing in future, must be accompanied with the CASH otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

UNITED STATES.—Late papers furnish the following intelligence respecting the returns for the election of President. There appears but little doubt that General Taylor is returned.

Boston, November 9.

The Election of President.—The news which we received last night from the south and west, is of the most cheering character, and we think will dispel all fears as to the final result. The returns give sufficient evidence of General Taylor's election. The following states are satisfactorily ascertained.

Table with columns TAYLOR and CASS, listing states and vote counts.

which give the Whig ticket 133. To elect General Taylor, we require 146 out of the 290 Electoral votes—thirteen more than we are now sure of. We shall, however, doubtless carry North Carolina, 11; Louisiana, 7; Florida, 3; and Georgia, 10—with a chance for Wisconsin, Iowa, Mississippi, &c. Everything looks bright and cheering for the cause of Old Zach.

New York, Nov. 9.—Tennessee (Polk's State) has gone for Taylor, giving him a majority of 5000 votes.

Taylor has now 144 electoral votes, counting North Carolina, 11, certain—with Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia to hear from. Either will elect him.

Later.—A late Telegraphic despatch to the Boston Mail, of the 10th, says—Georgia and Louisiana have gone for Taylor, and his election is now placed beyond a doubt.

Taylor's plurality, in 35 counties heard from in the Empire State, is 48,120. His majority in Pennsylvania, is about 15,000. Pennsylvania has deserted the democrats and gone for Taylor; and Ohio has abandoned the whigs and gone for Cass.

General Taylor is thought to be a moderate man, and opposed to extreme measures. He has not fully developed his principles.

In South Carolina, the Presidential Electors are chosen by the Legislature; in all the other states they are chosen by the people.

The state of New York has chosen Whig Governor, Whig members of Congress, Whig members of Assembly, Whig everything—a clean sweep of the state, with a few trifling exceptions.

Further accounts of the gale which visited Florida coast on the 25th ult., state that the destruction of life and property was greater than was first supposed. The ruin of Tampa was so complete that only four houses were left standing—all the Government stores &c., were a total loss.

Capt. Ryrie, and Lieut. Moffat, of the