

## The Politician.

## The Colonial Press.

From the St. John Morning News.

## THE POLITICAL CORRUPTIONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

## MR. NEEDHAM'S FIRST LECTURE.

We promised in our last to publish, for the information of the people, and not for our own gratification, an abstract of Alderman Needham's lecture, which was delivered on Monday evening. We shall endeavor to touch as lightly as possible upon delicate points, without, at the same time, allowing our better feelings to interfere with our public duties, in giving the characters and circumstances as represented by the lecturer. We would premise, however, that much of the information contained in this abstract is not by any means new to us, and to most of our readers,—although it comes up now in a new form,—for our paper has been busy during the last ten years, in pointing out these legislative iniquities. To Alderman Needham, however, the credit is due, for having stepped out manfully to grapple, single-handed, as it were, with the mountains of abuses, that rise up in every part of the land, where legislative influence is brought to bear. For this reason, and in order to arouse the country to the importance of preparing itself against the next election, to redress its own wrongs, we feel called upon to render our best service in the cause; and this can best be done, by making public the matter of a public lecturer.

The lecturer commenced his subject from the date of 1837, which began the administration of Sir John Harvey, styled the 'reign of harmony'—that is to say all the political sinners in the Province from the Governor downward, who had to do with public affairs, united to plunder the public chest of a large surplus of revenue that had, just before that, been handed over from the casual and territorial funds. He said he was not opposed to the principle of this money having been placed beneath our control—for it of right belonged to us, provided there had been sufficient honesty to take care of it. This not being the case, as it turned out, these revenues proved to be a curse where they ought to have been a blessing. They opened the doors to extravagance, corruption, bribery, and worse iniquities in general, than had ever been perpetrated in any Christian country; and before he finished his lectures he was in the hope of being able to show to the public in what way the chest had been plundered of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

He said the first thing he did, when he went to Fredericton last week, was to call upon several of the heads of departments, and others connected with office, in order to obtain all the correct information he could. Among them was the Clerk of the Legislative Council. Of him he wished to know how, or in what way, the 'contingent expenses' were made up, and if he would be kind enough to furnish him with the items? The reply was—'O, we do everything up in gross here.' 'Well, now,' said the lecturer, 'I am in earnest—whatever your answer is, I shall make use of it; and I now give you an opportunity to retract what you have stated; if not, then the consequences must fall upon yourself.' The same reply was given. Alderman Needham dwelt at considerable length upon this circumstance, to show, if items could not be furnished, what the people had a right to suspect was done with the gross contingent amounts, after the necessary expenses had been paid. He said he was equally unsuccessful at the office of the Provincial Secretary in obtaining information. He met that gentleman coming out of his office, and he stated to him what he wanted. The reply was, 'Yes, certainly—I am going over as far as the Bank, and will be back again in fifteen minutes.' The lecturer waited half an hour, but 'come back' did not come back. He next went to the library of the House of Assembly in order to examine certain accounts there connected with the House; but they were a perfect puzzle to him. He always thought he understood figures until then. There was no method, order, or regularity, or anything else about them. The object appeared to be to render everything as mysterious as possible, and to puzzle any inquisitive person, who, like himself, might undertake a voyage of discovery in that quarter. The accountant was certainly a clever fellow, and succeeded no doubt to the entire satisfaction of his employers. While trying to unravel this maze of figures, one of the members came into the library, and the lecturer asked him if he could explain to him certain things about these accounts? 'Oh,' said the member with a bland smile, 'you don't understand House of Assembly accounts.' To which the Alderman replied, 'No, nor any body else I'm afraid.' He was about abandoning the task several times—for the more he tried to understand the worse it got. At length, however, by the assistance of a friend, he was enabled to find his way pretty well through the thicker; and here follows the result of his inquiries.

The revenues of the Province from 1837 to 1843, inclusive, amount to £1,185,001 2s 2d, the appropriations for the same time amount to £1,241,112 5s 3d—the difference between which being £56,110 16s 1d—shows the amount of debt which only ought to be due by the Province; at least, this would be the plain and simple method by which any merchant would arrive at the amount of his liabilities or wealth. But by some strange arithmetical rule, known only to the *Johns* of the House, the debt, as reported last winter, amounts to the sum of £164,832 10s 7d—so says the audi-

tor's report, and so will it be printed. How this was to be reconciled, he, the Alderman, would leave for wiser heads than his to determine. It showed, however, the loose manner in which the accounts had been kept, and proved the absolute necessity of the continuance of that office of audit which was sought to be abolished last winter, by the Provincial Secretary. He (the lecturer) next stated that the Province was paying interest on £127,770 of that debt, and giving credit for assets, amounting to £37,272 11s 9d, which might be considered good, the actual indebtedness would be £127,609, 18s 10d. He would remark that the whole amount of the casual revenues, from 1838 to 1843, inclusive, was £317,475 3s 6d, deducting from that eleven years payment of the civil list, £14,500 per year (though it should be borne in mind that for a few years past it was only £12,000, or thereabouts per year), amounting to £159,500, would leave a balance on that account, which ought to be in favor of that fund, £157,175 3s 6d, which proved that the bargain was not so bad had it been dealt with carefully, and not so recklessly and wantonly squandered by a spendthrift House. It was gone, however, and with it the other accumulation of eleven years, out of the hard earnings of an oppressed and insulted people; and even that could not, and did not satiate their thirst for expenditure—for with all that they have entailed a debt of £164,832 10s 7d upon the impoverished and almost bankrupt Province of New Brunswick. He would refer to the contingent bills of the House, which had proved such prolific sources for Candidates at the Hustings to expatiate upon, but which was scarcely ever heard of after. He would first show what the contingencies had amounted to, from 1821 to 1843, giving the average and total of each seven years during that period—

|                     |                 |              |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1821 to 1827, total | £2016 3 0—aver. | £288 0 8 1/2 |
| 1828 to 1834, "     | " 2090 8 3 "    | 470 12       |
| 1835 to 1841, "     | " 13181 3 5 "   | 1882 14 1/2  |
| 1842 to 1848, "     | " 14,652 10 "   | 2093 3 0     |

It must be borne in mind that in 1828, when the contingencies commenced the *hop*, three notable characters went into the House, viz: Crane, Chandler, and (last not the least notable) Partelow. From that time they have gradually increased, until in 1848 the simple item of stationery amounted to £4 11s 8d more than the contingencies of both upper and lower Houses in 1821; the contingencies of both Houses, in 1821, amounting only to £235 10s 9, and the item of stationery alone for 1848, amounting to £220 2s 5d. Where did the necessity exist for so much? Were there more business men in the House now than then? No. Were there better men? No—nor half as good—but he must tell them before he finished where existed the necessity for so much stationery, and this he would do in his next lecture.

[To be continued.]

## Editor's Department.

## MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1849.

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.

**LAUNCH.**—From the building yard of the enterprising firm of Wm. Fruing & Co., at Shippigan, on the 3rd inst., a fine brigantine of 120 tons register, called the *St. Brelody*, built of the best juniper, copper fastened; and for model and workmanship she is considered by competent judges to be one of the finest vessels ever built in this quarter. Great credit is due to Mr James Henry, the master builder, for the style and manner in which she is finished. She is intended solely for the Mediterranean trade.—*Communicated.*

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.**—The Province having withdrawn its grant to the Courier to the Northern Counties of Gloucester and Restigouche, but one mail a week will in future be despatched from our office, which will be on Monday afternoon. Will our neighbors quietly submit to being thus deprived of an accommodation which they have long enjoyed, and which they have an undoubted right to possess? We hope not, and trust they will make an united and spirited remonstrance. If we are competent to judge, we think the people of these Counties are not in a frame of mind to be trifled with in matters connected with their rights and privileges.

CATTLE SHOW.—Two three year old

Bulls were exhibited at the late Cattle Show, one owned by Mr George Johnston, of Napan, and the other by Mr James Dickson, of the same place. The first weighed 12cwt. 3qrs. and 14lbs., the other 11cwt. 3qrs. and 14lbs.

**RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.**—The Miramichi Religious Tract Society have just received another importation of books from the Religious Tract Society of London, and they are now on sale at their depositories. These works are all of an unexceptionable character, being based on sound scriptural principles, and contain much valuable scientific, historical, moral and religious instruction. They are well and tastefully got up. All, therefore, who are desirous of furnishing themselves with cheap, useful and elegant books, would do well to pay an early visit to the depositories at Mr John Fraser's store, Chatham, or Mr Peter Watt's, Newcastle.

**QUEBEC AND HALIFAX RAILWAY.**—A correspondent of the Montreal Courier furnishes the editor of that paper with the following important information respecting this important work. We are afraid the news is too good to be true.

We have much pleasure in being enabled to state, from the best authority, that this *grand undertaking*, on which the welfare and prosperity of this province depends, is in a fair way of being commenced early next summer, the amount of share stock taken, and proposed applications, including princely investments by the Ladies Superior of the Nunneries, and an Ecclesiastical Establishment, being now nearly £200,000 sterling, and it is expected that £500,000 of stock will be taken in this Province alone, for which the country at large are mainly indebted to the energy and zealous co-operation of the venerable Prelate, who presides with anxious benevolence and vigilance over the welfare of the Roman Catholic population of the Province, and whose offer to pay the whole of his subscription at once, for the sake of good example, will entitle him to the lasting gratitude of the company, as well as every loyal subject in America.

The Company incorporated for carrying out the measure, are making arrangements for appointing the directors, as legally required, and after that is done the sterling aid of the Imperial Government may be relied upon. We would, therefore, strongly recommend all who have the means, to make some investment with the company, and thereby promote their own as well as the general benefit of British America.

**ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.**—The Editor of the Novascotian in speaking of the Electric Telegraph which is now being erected through that Province, remarks: 'It never rains but it pours,' for it is reported in the Boston papers, that in addition to the one now partially in operation, that O'Reilly's line will also be carried through to Halifax during the ensuing winter and spring.

**SOMETHING NEW.**—It is a common phrase, and one which the ingenuity of man, and the knowledge he is acquiring of the long-hidden secrets of nature, daily renders more correct—"there is nothing new under the sun;" but notwithstanding, we are now and then falling upon things and circumstances which go far to disprove the truth of this "wise saw." A paragraph communicated to the Editor of the Halifax Novascotian, which appears in the last number of that journal conveys some intelligence which we hesitate not to say, is "strange, passing strange," and which will not be read by our subscribers without exciting their "especial wonder." It is this—that three clergymen, of different religious persuasions, have joined together, and are mutually assisting each other to dispense the bread of life to the same congregations. We hesitate not to say that this is something new; but we hope that these shadowings forth of good things to come, will be less rare every day, and that dissensions will cease to exist in the Christian ministry and church.

It appears that the Rev. Mr Sedgewick has accepted the charge, and been inducted into a congregation of Christians in Musquodoboit. He has had a city charge for many years in Aberdeen, and is broken in, but not broken down, being well acquainted with the duties

of the pastoral office. His fame as an author and popular preacher has reached this country before him, and procured him him a favorable reception. The field of his labors in that settlement is too large for one minister, but he is to have the Rev. Mr Peart, an English Independent and the Rev. Mr Dickson, of the Establishment, as fellow laborers. This triumvirate is under the different forms of church government, Episcopacy, Presbytery, and Congregationalism, which in the civil state, bear some resemblance to Monarchy, Republicanism, and Democracy. They have been trained in three different schools, and in the ministrations of Christianity the people will have a variety. The intellectual treats of Scottish Theology, the sparkling periods, and animated appeal of English Dissenters, and the Catholic Christianity, and the chastened and beautiful periods of our own church, will be poured upon the audience for their entertainment and instruction.

**LEGAL PHRASEOLOGY.**—This is the heading of an editorial article in the Novascotian, which contains some capital hints at the strange, (and as we have always considered it,) unmeaning and useless repetition of words in the legal documents of the gentlemen of the long robe. We annex the article:—

Of all the absurdities of the English language of the nineteenth century, we believe a lawyer's declaration to be the climax. There are many living gentlemen of the bar, whose talents we admire and whose genius we worship,—there are also many dead, whose writings form the brightest gems in our literary Coronal. Still we do not consider it incompatible with the dignity of the bar, that its members should write what can be understood and bear at least some semblance of truth. It is therefore high time, that they should be arraigned at the bar of common sense, and that reason, not nonsense, should be the presiding judge. If they are found guilty by a jury composed of all, who have waded through one of their interminable declarations, the severest punishment we can think of, or could suggest, is that they should be condemned to speak and write something like common sense for the future. If they find this impossible let them pay the usual forfeit to good taste, and be imprisoned for life in a Penitentiary under the immediate superintendence of Folly, Humbug, and Nonsense.

If a ram or wether has been seized by some midnight depredator, the thief, if caught, is represented as having had on more waistcoats than a gravedigger in Hamlet, more arms than Briareus, and more heads than Hydra. The said ram or wether has been cruelly attacked by the said thief and robber, some time within a hundred years, and in some place whose circumference does not exceed a thousand miles. Then and there by the said midnight assassin, thief and robber, the said ram or wether was cut and slashed with a hundred knives and cutlasses, pounded and slashed with a hundred clubs and bludgeons, and dishevelled and hashed by two score of cooks, all to the great bodily injury of the said ram or wether, and the serious annoyance of our Sovereign Lady the Queen. The ram or wether is represented as having ten times the number of horns ascribed by Hebrew Commentators to the whore of Babylon, as much tallow round his kidney as would at once break up the gas company, as much flesh on his ribs as would furnish double rations for a twelvemonth to the inmates of the Poor House, and as much wool on his back as would be sufficient to clothe the British army.

When Peter the Great was in London, learning ship-building, he attended a trial, and listened attentively to the pleadings of some of the most eminent and learned barristers of the day. When the Czar left the Court, and was asked his opinion of the English bar, he gravely replied, 'When I left Russia there was only three lawyers in St. Petersburg; as soon as I return I shall certainly hang two of them.' We cannot approve of this brief method, suggested by the Muscovite autocrat, of getting rid even of a *briefless* barrister. But although we are by no means disposed to dispose of the gentlemen of the long robe in such a summary manner, we think their antique phraseology might be discarded—their unintelligible and nonsensical jargon dispensed with, without any violation of the Queen's English, or any offence to the Queen herself. We are further of opinion, that such among them as are loafers, loungers and pettifoggers—strife-makers instead of peace-makers, might be conveniently spared, not very much missed, and not very deeply lamented.

**NOVASCOTIA.**—It is in contemplation to erect an Orphan Asylum in the city of Halifax. The papers speak very cheerfully of the Mackerel Fishery. There is a dispute respecting the validity of Mr Pryor's appointment of Mayor of Halifax, and the Lieutenant Governor has withheld his assent thereto.

**LARGE BEET.**—The Rev. Mr McCurdy has presented us with a large Blood Beet, raised in his garden in Chatham, this season. It weighs upwards of six pounds, and measures 16 1/2 inches in circumference.