

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE
EDWARD'S ISLAND, AND NEWFOUND-
LAND.

FELLOW COLONISTS,

The nature of this communication renders any explanation for addressing you unnecessary.

In the welfare of the British Colonies on this continent, you are, I presume, as deeply interested as myself.

The prostrate condition of every interest with you, I believe to be equally alarming as that of those of this Province, which requires a vigorous and faithful exertion of the powers resting in the people, to save this part of the empire from an objectionable and disgraceful destiny.

We are not brought into our present sufferings and extremity from natural causes, but by a combination of evils arising out of injurious legislation, by an expensive and inefficiently constituted Government, and by the lavish and dishonest application of the public revenues.

In the contentions of parties the public good has been completely overlooked, and the productive and laboring classes have been victimized to the rapacity of unscrupulous and contending factions.

By the highest obligations to our common country and kindred, it now becomes an imperative duty that we unite against every power inimical to the interests of the general body of the people, and that we do not cease working together till we have exterminated the last influence, Imperial or Colonial, which contravenes the springs of social, political or commercial advancement.

I should wish to see a colonial platform erected, upon which all moderate and honest men could unite and stand together, to sink that ecum of political turpitude which has bubbled so long in power, to endeavor to extricate colonial interests from the meshes of that fatal and ruinous policy in which they are entangled by the Acts of the parent Government, and to free the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests, on which we depend for our happiness, from the unjust burdens and interference of Imperial patronage and control.

England has taken her course against the colonies. She has snapped the ties that bound them so strongly to her, and left them to their commercial destiny among the nations of the world. She has broken a natural reciprocity, and formed a disgraceful alliance with aliens and foreigners. She has cast away her children, that she may have a larger intercourse with foreigners; and she has, by her government, statesmen and public press, declared that she will leave her colonial subjects to manage their own affairs. To this I look, and I ask no more, than authority to appoint to all public offices, of a Provincial character—the right finally, to legislate on all questions which will not trench upon our allegiance to Her Majesty or affect the integrity of the empire, and the full control over the Provincial revenues.

At this time the British American Colonies present a striking but lamentable contradiction to the ordinary sequence of effects from given causes.

Pre-eminently rich with varied sources of wealth, and inhabited, as they have been, for a length of time, by an industrious, enterprising and intelligent people, upon whom a beneficent Creator has granted every genial blessing, they ought to exhibit a garden of happiness, devoid of anxiety or want. But, what is their condition? A state of ruin, wretchedness and misery, that cannot long be borne. Property of every description is valueless. Many families, who were recently affluent, cannot now count upon a week's subsistence. The farmers are depressed, manufacturers, merchants and shopkeepers beggared, and a large portion of the working classes thrown upon the charity of an impoverished community. And why is it that this land, abounding with every element which earth and nature can contribute to diffuse life and contentment, is deluged in despondency and woe? Because we have been unwisely and unjustly governed.

I claim no superior power to discover or correct errors, but the irregularities which are being so constantly, openly and unblushingly committed by public men of every grade and party, clash so directly with the first principles of honor and rectitude, that they are palpable to every observing mind, and they have created that dissatisfaction and discontent out of which has arisen the 'British American League.'

With the earliest promoters of this Association I acted, and as my individual opinion of its character and object, I say it is free from every party bias; that it is conservative in principle—as determined to establish the balancing powers of the British Constitution in the Government of this country, and that it will be found most powerful in reform—as attacking every excess and abuse that interferes with the interests of the people or the public good. Its first and leading object is the advancement of British American interests, and the removal of those evils which now constitute a serious political grievance.

The unmistakable language in which England has expressed herself towards Colonial interests, suggests the necessity of looking more to our own resources, and less to her markets, for our future prosperity. To this I call your attention, and whatever faults or imperfections these letters may exhibit, I do entreat for them

that attention to which they are at least entitled, having reference to a question of vital importance to every British American subject, and as being dictated by a spirit the most free from sectarian attachment, and with a faithfulness to the land I have made my home, which is only limited by the power I possess to promote its prosperity.

Permit me, then, to consider myself as one of yourselves, as one whose fortune is inseparably linked with yours, and invite you to come forward as men capable of thinking and acting correctly in an eventful crisis in the history of your country. Upon the action of the present, depends the condition of the colonies for ages to come. In the performance of your duty, I beseech you, allow no prejudice, personal or party consideration, or other secondary or less worthy motive than ought to actuate you, to interfere with a just and faithful exercise of your judgment on this occasion. Act, and proclaim your rights—calmly meet every constituted power that dares to invade those rights; nor do you listen to any seductive influence that would take you from your duty to your Sovereign and that Empire of which British America forms a part.

Beyond the gloom that at present hangs over the several pursuits in which we are engaged, I think I see the dawn of a bright and glorious career—a prospect that promises to continue our connection with the British Empire on a basis more honorable, advantageous and enduring than any that has yet existed. The first step to that basis, is a Legislative Union of the British American Provinces, under a central government, the three estates of the Government, elective,—varying, however, in qualification, tenure, mode and time of change, and the country divided into large municipalities, with extensive corporate powers for local purposes.

Such changes jeopardize neither our loyalty to the Sovereign, or our connection with Great Britain; but the contrary—they would strengthen both, and they would be but just, as a measure for self-defence against Imperial misrule.

No usage, law, or authority whatsoever, is so binding, that it need or ought to be continued, when it may be changed with advantage to the community. The family of the prince, the order of succession, the prerogative of the crown, the form and parts of the legislature, together with the powers, offices, duration, and mutual duration of the several parts, are all only so many laws, mutable like other laws, whenever expediency requires, either by the ordinary act of the legislature, or, by occasion, deserve it, by the interposition of the people.

These were the sentiments of an eminent divine connected with the established Church of England,—they are justified by the first principles of all human government—the order of right and the good of the people; and we must adopt them, and endeavor constitutionally to carry them out in this part of Her Majesty's dominions.

I am, your faithful servant,

THOS. WILSON.

Quebec, September 26, 1849.

From the Halifax Sun.

THE FISHERIES.

It is quite clear to us, that great as would be the advantages to the United States of an unrestricted trade with these Colonies, the government of that country will never entertain any proposition having this for its basis, coming from the British Government, or the Colonists themselves, unless accompanied by a guarantee of a free fishery in our waters, equal with our own people. In vain may the Canadians and New Brunswickers toil for the reciprocity they seek, if Nova Scotia or Newfoundland are stubbornly or wisely silent.—The question, then, rests entirely with the Novascotians and Newfoundlanders. Are they prepared to yield to the Americans the right of coming in and settling in their bays, and harbours—of catching and curing fish therein—of competing with them on the Banks, and in every manner exercising the privileges of British subjects, with themselves, in regard to the prosecution of the fisheries generally? On this basis alone, will the Americans treat with us—and it remains to be proven whether we should be injured or benefited by the concession. Now, when not narrowly considered, the privileges demanded may seem not to be so extravagant as at first thought—contrasting what they ask, with what they have got. At present, according to the provisions of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, entered into on the 20th October, 1818, the Americans were guaranteed the right to take any description of fish on the coast of Newfoundland, from Cape Ray to the Quirpon Islands, round the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and also in all coasts, bays, harbors, and creeks, from Mount Joly, on the southern coast of Labrador, to and through the Straits of Bellefleur, and thence northward indefinitely along the coast, without prejudice, however, to any of the exclusive rights of the Hudson's Bay company. They have also the right of curing the fish caught in any of the unsettled bays, harbors, &c., on the Southern coasts of Newfoundland and the Labrador, but not in any settled part of the country—and they are obliged to abandon any establishment they may have made, whenever the place so selected for their labors becomes settled, unless allowed to remain there by arrangement with the inhabitants. The right is also guaranteed to them to fish within three marine miles of our coasts, and to enter our harbors and bays for wood and water, and when forced by stress of weather.

These are the privileges the Americans at present enjoy in reference to the fisheries on our coasts. It will be seen they are not at all

insignificant. The restrictions, however, are onerous to them, and a source of protection to us. Would their removal be compensated for by the admission of our coal, and iron, and fish and lumber, and ships, duty free, into the United States?

We confess, from present information, our inability to decide, as to the relative advantages. A hasty judgement on so grave a matter would not be wise. We are inclined to receive with caution any proposed relaxation of the provisions of the treaty of 1818; and we must be well convinced of the certain advantages to be gained by reciprocity, on such a basis as a free fishery to Americans in our waters, before we concede the privileges sought. Yet, we cannot shut our eyes to the importance of a free Trade with the United States, from Calais, to New Orleans and San Francisco, and from Buffalo to the extreme navigable parts of the Great Lakes, through the St. Lawrence,—but then, as fish would be the staple article of our export, the Americans being allowed under a relaxation of the provisions of the existing Treaty, to fish in our waters, would become our most successful competitors.

But were we sure that American capital would flow into this country, for manufacturing purposes—that our mines and minerals would be turned to good account—that the immense water privileges lying waste on every hand would be employed to set machinery in motion—that factories would spring up in our midst under the magic touch of Yankee enterprise—that Steamboats would ply upon our shores—and agriculture be stimulated by new and growing markets within our own boundaries, as results of the concession asked,—then, indeed might we sigh for the change, and deem it no sacrifice to meet the wishes of our Republican neighbors. The Americans feel that they have the advantage—that our necessities force us into an unequal trade with them—and they will keep it, so long as it is their interest so to do. We may, therefore, consider it as certain, that they will never entertain any proposition for a Free or Reciprocal Trade with these Colonies until something definite is offered relative to the fisheries of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Opportunely, if not Providentially, a new trade, that between Canada and the Western States, through the St. Lawrence, has just opened up. The first fruits have been tasted, and we should encourage its growth by every possible means. Here is a fine market for our fish, and the surplus West India produce in our warehouses. Here, too, we can obtain the supplies we require most, such as flour, meal, pork, &c., not only for the consumption of our own people, but for exportation; and our opinion is, as the trade becomes enlarged, and the intercourse more frequent, our merchants, by this exchange of products, may readily compete with the Americans in our West India markets, and thus win back that trade to its legitimate channel, the loss of which has so much retarded our prosperity.

From the Quebec Chronicle.

SUMMARY FOR THE MAIL.

The governors of this colony rest from their labors. Nothing disturbs them now. His Excellency Lord Elgin enjoys himself among the farmers of the Far West, and flatters himself—and some of them—by conferring on their nameless standings his patronymic; Mr Abraham Cook's residence has been yeelpet Brucefield. The province, however, is not in a very promising condition. There is a strong feeling, not only against our ministers, but against the British Government. There is a strong desire for a change of some sort. We shall not say that the annexationists are gaining strength daily; but we can with safety state that that feeling of affection for everything British which was not long ago entertained is rapidly disappearing. There seems to be a general impression that the time is approaching when it will be for the advantage of this colony to be left to itself. The half independent, half dependent form of government which even the furthest advanced colonies only enjoy, just stimulates to something else; tout rien ou rien will be, by and bye, as much the motto of Canadians, as the whole or none was of President Polk. The language of the Montreal press is becoming serious; the language of the press throughout the country is earnest—earnest concerning the misgovernment of the province. Every article that appears in an English newspaper in which there is the slightest allusion to ultimate independence is instantly copied and commented upon; the times previous to the movement for the independence of the now United States are spoken of, and examples drawn from that period to show that we are in a state of transition; the very boasting of the Governor General that he is republican and unostentatious in his expenditure leads to the belief that his lordship could be still more so on a smaller salary—the allowance of a State governor would permit of that economy which His Excellency Lord Elgin practices; the whole Governmental machinery seems tumbling to pieces; no one seems to know what an hour will bring forth; there is no certainty of things remaining an hour as they are; there political confidence in the country; the Governor would go to Toronto, but evidently fears to do so; the prime minister would go to Toronto and assemble the Parliament but fears the storm which his doing so would produce among his countrymen; the government would fain come to Quebec, but then the Upper Canadian radicals would appear in their proper character, and be as sanguine for revolution as they ever before were; we have declarations of 'independence' published in the newspapers; these no one thinks of prohibiting; nor could they perhaps be prohibited even should any one try.

An article from the Montreal Transcript in

another part of our paper should be read and well considered; the ultra conservative English party (that was—we must add), and the ultra democratic party seem to be driven towards one goal—annexation. The last paragraph of the Transcript's article is rather mysterious—'we earnestly recommend our friends and all who wish really well to the colony to be very cautious how they involve themselves in any movement of the nature referred to. For our own good or evil, our political destinies are in our own hands. It is easier to give away than acquire; impossible to regain when once we have given. The birth-right of British subjects is no valueless thing, and what if we should exchange it for a mess of pottage!'

At Brantford a kind of triumphal arch was erected upon the bridge which crosses the river. A watch had been placed to prevent its being torn down. A young man being on an errand, had to cross the bridge after dark, and in doing so, without warning or fault, was shot in the knee. The Montreal Gazette takes the opportunity of reminding Lord Elgin that the bloodshed which has taken place is attributable indirectly to him—persons it said were killed at Bytown.

From the St. John Morning News.

THE POLITICAL CORRUPTIONS
OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

MR. NEEDHAM'S FIRST LECTURE.

The 'reign of harmony' was the New Brunswick 'reign of terror,' owing to the terrible effects it had produced upon the country; and he considered that Sir John Harvey had much to answer for, and the time would yet come when he would have to be held accountable for his 'stewardship' in this Province. He would now cite certain circumstances to show how the people had been plundered, and these would also account in a great measure, for the lavish expenditures of the last ten years, and how it happens that the Province is so deeply in debt. A short time before the departure of Sir John Harvey from the Province, the house had voted one thousand pounds as a contingent fund to meet the requirements of the Government during the recess. Up to this moment not a single copper of this sum had been accounted for. The House of Assembly at its next meeting presented an address to Sir William Colebrooke, successor to Sir John, requesting his Excellency to account to the house, how the thousand pounds had been expended? Sir William replied that he was incompetent to answer the address and satisfy the House, inasmuch as he was not Governor last year. Here, then, was something to think about, yet up to this time there has not been a single member of the House of Assembly, who has the manliness to get up in his place and demand that this thousand pound matter shall be sifted to the bottom of it. Sir John Harvey shortly after the money was voted left the Province, and the probability is that the thousand pounds went with him. And he (the lecturer) would now firmly and solemnly declare, that if he should ever get a seat in that house, Sir John Harvey should be brought to book. These were the days, gentlemen, of the Oligarchy, when harmony prevailed, and the people in their innocence, had to foot the bills. Those days of harmony bad as they were, exist now only under false colours. We have a coalition made up of opposite materials holding command of the Government, and no opposition, worthy the name, to oppose them.

The same harmony exists in the House. The members, with very few exceptions, are pulled by the one string, they dance to the same music—and the charms of office and emolument, either in possession, or held over their heads, have a most potent influence upon their pliable characters. As he proceeded in the course of his lectures, he would explain about those pickings, and he thought he would be able to startle the country by his disclosures. But he was not yet done with Sir John Harvey. On the eve of his departure, Mr L. A. Wilton came into the House, and in an off-handed manner proposed that the sum of fifteen hundred pounds (or 1500 currency) be voted for a service of plate to be presented to His Excellency, as a token of regard for his valuable services as administrator of the Government. He never could learn that there had been any Commissioners appointed to carry out the object—consequently the presumption was that this £1500 all went in the same way that the 'one thousand' did. Then the road and bridge system of spending the public monies was another piece of iniquity, as it gave rise to pilfering of the worst sort. He would mention a few incidents. One of the members for Sunbury on a certain occasion, had the supervision of building a bridge. He accordingly agreed with a party to do the work for £150—and gave him (the builder) an order for the lumber, which amounted to £75. When the House met the hon. member presented a bill of costs to the House, which stood thus: £150 for the bridge, and £75, ADDITIONAL, for the lumber—making all the sum £225!!! The bridge-builder happened to be in Fredericton, and in the House at the time; and after the house adjourned he went up to the honorable member and asked him if he had not made a mistake—'you know,' said the builder, 'the bridge only cost £150 altogether—the amount for the lumber you stopped out of my bill.' 'Yes,' answered the hon. gentleman, 'never mind that—it's all right—we know each other pretty well—you were always a friend of mine, and I've always been a friend of yours—here take this (slipping a five pound note into his hand) go down to my dairy and tell them to give you one of the best cows, and take it home with you.' The builder of course did not