

of Assembly, and endanger the liberty of the subject, and the due administration of public justice. This was his opinion, and although they might differ with him in opinion, still he trusted they would give him credit for sincerity. The opinion was disinterested, because if he should even obtain a seat on the Bench, it would be under the reduced salary.

He then spoke of the present depression, arising from the commercial policy of Great Britain, and the failure of crops. Spoke of reciprocal trade with the United States, and said that a bill had passed the last Session for that purpose. He stated that he had taken an active part in establishing a free trade with Canada, by which we received their flour duty free, and sent our fish in return, also free from duty. That he had always voted for a low rate of duty, contending that £60,000 was sufficient revenue for this Province. That Trade must be relieved and encouraged, for by the encouragement of trade our mechanics and laborers would find employment, and our farmers a ready market for their produce, which would be far more to their advantage than imposing a duty upon agricultural produce.

He spoke of the despatch of Lord Stanley, which prohibited our Legislature from imposing differential duties, and contended that we should have a right to regulate our own Tariff.

Mr Carman said he did not consider it right for a candidate to notice the remarks of anonymous writers, but there had appeared in the last Gleaner an article headed "Hints for the People," which the Editor had called the attention of the Candidates to, as having emanated from a meeting. Whether that meeting was composed of 10 or 100, he did not know, but as the article was publicly alluded to, he would notice it, and give his constituents his opinion of the several propositions there contained. He had already expressed his opinion upon many of them, and with the most of them he fully concurred.

He said he had been returned on a former occasion under three pledges—the first was, to do all he could for the benefit of the Province at large; the second, to do all he could for this county in particular, and the third, to do all he could for himself. The two first of these pledges he had fulfilled, but he was sorry to say he had neglected the third. If it should please his constituents again to return him, he was ready to renew the two first pledges, and as to the third, he would benefit himself if he could, but it should never be at the sacrifice of principle, or a disregard to the interests of his constituents. He then paused, and called upon his audience, to know if they had any question to put, as to his past conduct, or future course, if returned. Some allusion was made to the large amount of postage, which he explained to the entire satisfaction of his hearers, and showed that not one penny of it had found its way into his pocket, and remarked upon it as an evidence of the confidence reposed in him by his constituents, by their entrusting him with their affairs. He then told them that as he had been but once returned, if his conduct had been generally satisfactory, they were bound to return him; and if on the contrary he had done anything wrong during the last Session, they should return him, in order that he might have an opportunity of rectifying it.

Mr Carman's speech occupied a little over an hour in the delivery, during the whole of which time he was listened to with great attention, and at its close was loudly cheered.

Mr CRANNEY spoke as follows:—

GENTLEMEN FREEHOLDERS—I have the honor of again appearing before you, soliciting a renewal of your support and suffrages on the present occasion. During the past four years, I have endeavored to do what I conceived to be just and right for the interests and prosperity of the Province. I beg to refer you to my votes during that period, to show you that they have been generally on the right side; and although I may have erred on some occasions, as all will occasionally do, I have to assure you, however, they were more errors of judgment than of the will.

I must do my late colleagues the justice to say, that in all matters in which the interests of this county were involved, they, with myself, stood together and worked together for its good and prosperity; but on abstract questions of policy, we divided, as we had a right to do, every one voting according to the best of his judgment.

Gentlemen—I never have, nor do I now appear before you as an orator, but as a plain, practical man, who has lived among you, many years, and who is acquainted with the general business of the country. I have endeavored, along with my colleagues, to do the best I could for the good of the country, and if we were not allowed to do all that we could have wished to do, the fault was not ours.

Nothing is easier than to make flattering promises at the hustings and elsewhere; and Gentlemen, you may apply a test to the candidates who are now before you, if you please, but I say they are no better than the idle winds, unless the same test be administered and acceded to by the candidates at the hustings in every county in the Province. My own opinion is, that you ought to leave your members unfettered, and not tie them down to any line of policy; if you do so, they will then act with more caution, and take special care how they trifle with any question in which the interest of the County or Province is at stake.

If you believe the Press of the Province, with the exception of a few papers, the members of the late House are worse than high-

waymen—vagabonds, with the mark of Cain upon them. I am sorry to find it echoed by many who ought to know better. I say that more business was done at the last Session of the House than for any 10 or 15 years before. Yet the cry is—nothing has been done! I wish those persons who say so, would take the trouble to look through the Journals, and there they will find business done to a vast extent. In other years the work scarcely exceeded seventy acts; the last winter it went beyond a hundred. But, Gentlemen, don't you see the cause of our sinning with the Saint John Press: had we given them the railroad from St. John to the Bend, we would be spoken of in very different terms, but because we saved the Province by refusing our assent to such an act, we are designated as a reckless and worthless set of spendthrifts—be it so. I have made up my mind to go against all sectional Railroads, until the main trunk is first laid down, as I am convinced they are no better than Utopian schemes, calculated to ruin and destroy the resources of the Province. I went against the Shediac and St. John Railroad; I went against the St. Andrews Railroad, and I will go against all others, until the Great Trunk is first completed. As for supporting this Government or that Government, I don't intend to offer any factious opposition to whoever may be in power, but to go with them when I think their acts good and beneficial for the Country, and against them when wrong; this I conceive to be the correct course to pursue. As to those great political questions that are now dividing and agitating this Province from its centre to its circumference, I think these ought to be approached with the greatest care and attention. If the constituency are for these changes, let the county meet, or in parishes, and then, if a large majority are of opinion that the views now set forth in theory should be adopted, let them say so, and instruct their members to support them. But, until then, I think it would be very dangerous and injudicious to adopt the crude notions that are now abroad, or to be led away by what a few individuals say or think. But let me be clearly understood. I am a great reformer; greater than some who have preceded or will come after me, this day. I am ready to go for all reform that will benefit the country, and if returned, to go for them to the fullest extent.

I thank you, gentlemen, for the patient hearing you have given me, and if re-elected, I promise to do my utmost to redress all real existing public grievances, and to reduce the expenses of the Government to a scale that will be suitable to the times and to the state of the country. The farming interests of the country and the fisheries will have my best attention; and the mechanical and laboring classes will not be forgotten. In fine, I will, (as stated before) go for all useful reform, until the country be what I trust it is destined to be, one of the finest and most prosperous Provinces of British North America.

Mr JOHNSON also occupied some time. We give below an outline of his speech:

They had been told by some of the candidates that they appeared before them proposed by influential men. Of this he could not boast, having been proposed by a respectable and independent farmer of Napan, and seconded by another such from Newcastle. Nor could he boast of the support of powerful houses, or monied men, but on the contrary may, perchance, meet with opposition from such. He came before them because he conceived that some change was required, and as he frankly informed some of the old members last winter, he would be in the field, unless others came forward to carry out the same views. He bore enmity to none; he differed in opinion with the old members, but canvassed against no one. He opposed measures, not men, and he sought support not for himself but for his measures. If Mr Street would consent to adopt the views which he thought the majority of the Freeholders entertained, they could send no man more fit to carry them out. The views expressed by that gentleman upon Responsible Government and Municipal Corporations, accorded with his own, except that Mr Street wished to introduce them progressively, he at once. He (Mr S.) thinks we are not prepared for them, while he (Mr J.) said that if fit to elect Representatives to the Assembly, they were fit to elect County and Parish Officers; and that it ill became those who boast of having represented a free and enlightened constituency, to assert that they are unfit to manage their own county affairs.

If Municipal Corporations are good, the sooner we have them the better, and if bad, let us find it out at once, and not inch by inch, till it be too late to adopt a better system: worse than we are we cannot well be. He respected individuals upon the magisterial bench, but as a body, he said the County had no confidence in them, and that the majority would never be elected by the people. Those persons who have no property to be taxed are surely not the best to levy assessments, or manage our financial affairs.

Municipal Corporations would not increase expense as some appear to dread. Our Clerk of the Peace would be our County Clerk, and our Town Clerk perform the requisite duties in the election of parish officers, and otherwise. On the contrary, much expense would be saved in Legislation: much time of the Assembly was now lost in regulating mere local matters, which was at best but badly done. Much expense was incurred in presenting and reading petitions for school money, and when a difference of opinion exists between the members of the Counties from which these petitions came, those who have to decide between them however honest in intention, can only do right by accident,

and too frequently are induced to decide in favor of that party who consents to return the favor by voting for some other measure or grant of which he was equally ignorant. Let this money be granted in one sum, and it will be more justly divided by men in our own county and of our own choosing.

The Bye Road money was too frequently granted with less regard to the wants and wishes of the people than for electioneering purposes. Let their Representatives be ever so good, they would be a little better by removing temptation; let their money be granted like the school money, in gross to each county, and it would be better divided and better expended. The capacity of a bye road commissioner would no longer be judged by the number of votes he could command; and if the county officers be elective, the inclinations of their Representative when seeking office, would no longer run counter to duty, and in favor of the government, but in a direct line with duty, because to gain the interest of the people who elect, he must serve them faithfully. Such were a few, and only a few, of the benefits to be derived from Municipal Corporations; and when he was told that the influence of great houses would control these elections, he replied that the influence of one person in power must, under the present system, make the appointments, and that the present election would furnish the best test of our fitness and independence to elect. He came forward upon the strength of the independent only, and all be asked of the powerful is, that they would leave him to himself, and in confidence of the County's independence, he feared not the result.

As respects the present Government, Mr Street and he agreed that it was an anomaly, made up of Radical and Tory, Free Traders and Protectionists, Retrenchment and Old-School men. How was it possible they could agree upon any important political measures: let what would be suggested by one party in the Government, and it must be opposed by the rest.

But there was yet another reason why Responsible Government had never been carried out in this Province, and it only required us to ask what Responsible Government means in order to see this. Now, though often sought to be made mysterious, it simply means *Self-government*. That the Executive is responsible to the people through their Representatives; that the Government must either be supported by a majority of the Assembly or retire; and that for this purpose the Assembly must themselves represent the feelings of the majority of the people. Now, how is it possible that the former representatives of this county could represent the opinions of its people on the important political questions which must frequently have arisen in the House. Did they ever till now explain them upon the hustings? or did you ever till now, plainly give them your opinions, and require them to agree with or adopt them before elected? And this was the difficulty which he congratulated them upon discovering and taking steps to overcome. He took some credit to himself for bringing it to light. He had not asked any man for his vote: his only canvass had been to call public meetings, and there explain his views at large. Already had he lectured upon the political changes required, in eleven different sections of the county, and at those meetings he had plainly stated his belief, that retrenchment was absolutely called for by the people and their circumstances. He showed the amount of each salary as it was; gave his reasons for each being reduced, and stated the amount at which each should be fixed, whereby in salary and expenses, amounting to £30,716, an annual saving of £13,556 should be effected.

Two of the candidates have spoken on this subject, and both admitted that the salaries were far too high, and that retrenchment was necessary, but both contend that this cannot now be done; and here it is that those gentlemen and he chiefly differed. Mr Carman and Mr Street thought the judicial salaries could not be reduced during the lives of the present incumbents, and that the home government would not assent to their reduction. Now, it is surely time enough thus to decide when the home government refused; had they even a right so to do. Do not let us deny ourselves, and make the answer for the British Government before we asked.

But the grounds upon which they say that answer will be based, are themselves fallacious—the securing fourteen thousand pounds as a Civil List when the Casual and Territorial Revenues were given up to the Province. Had not Great Britain since that time, and without our assent, given away much of the best land and timber of the Province, from which those revenues sprung. Has she not taken away protection from the Colonial trade, and destroyed those revenues? But he this as it may, he did not believe that Great Britain would deny when this Province sought for what was an absolute necessity. Those people who pay must decide the question. What gained the Reform Bill? what carried the abolition of the Corn Laws? what carried Free Trade in England? the People, surely, and the people here can reduce the salaries if they will. Do not send to the Assembly those who say they can't, but us who say we can, who will try it. Confidence has much to do with success.

But why do these gentlemen advance the Judges' Salaries to oppose the general reduction—was it for the same reason that the House last winter introduced a bill for this purpose, first—was it to show them how sincere they were in seeking retrenchment. Would any man in his senses seek to enter a wedge butt end foremost, and is not this what the Assembly did? They knew that the Ju-

dicial, of all the salaries, were to be dealt with most delicately. They knew that the country would seek economy in all departments before they would roughly handle the Judiciary, and therefore they put this bill forward as a feeler, and to prove themselves sincere. He doubted the sincerity of those men, who after bringing in such a Bill at the tail of the last Session—would yet vote by Resolutions £250 extra to the Clerk of the Assembly, and when this was negated by the Court, again introduce the amount in three different places in the Contingent Bill, and thus oblige that body, either to pass what a few days before they had rejected, or to loose their own contingencies, of £751—for they must know that the upper branch must either pass or reject, and cannot alter any money bill sent up by the House. But if the Assembly really meant to reduce the Judges' incomes, why did they not abolish their fees, and the way the travelling charges, which amounted to over £700 per annum. Will the old members seek to continue the Surveyor General in £1333 Gs. 8d. per annum, with all the expenses of his office paid out of the Treasury, and the whole work done by clerks, who receive £1020 a year. Surely it is an outrage, that this office only collected £3395 7s. 6d. last year, and that after paying the salaries and expenses, the nett balance to the Province was but £561 7s. 8d. Would it not be far better to abolish the office, and let Emigrants settle our lands as they pleased, by simply paying for and recording the survey, than to require them to pay £15 into this office for 100 acres of land, in order that the Province should get the amount for roads and bridges the sum of £2 10s 0d.

He had heard it said, that half the Surveyor General's salary goes to pay his debts, and therefore he cannot be reduced. That is to say, Mr Bailie received at one time £3000 a year from the Province, and had little to do. His time and money lay so heavy on his hands that to employ both, he had to embark in speculations which turned out unfortunate, and we must pay his debts. But surely this proves the evils of high salaries—had he received £400 a year, and worked for it, he would have been now a solvent man, and we a richer people.

He did not think it necessary to detain them while he explained to them the amount required to be reduced from the different salaries and expenditures, as his views were so generally known upon this subject; and they would be glad, after the long speeches they had already heard, to get off so easily from a professional man.

In fact he came there without a note or memorandum of any kind, intending not to be tedious, and to be prepared only to reply to the objections raised by others to his well known opinions. He had never been in the habit of preparing a speech, but believed that when nature gave ideas it also gave the words to convey them. That if the heart be right, the utterance would not be far wrong; and he should only detain them further to say, that he entirely repudiated the plea that the Colonial Secretary can dictate to this Colony what line of policy we are to adopt on those matters which concern ourselves; and that he should advocate the necessity of manfully seeking the right to make a trade for ourselves with Foreign States, upon such terms, as would secure to us that commercial prosperity which, under the present free trade policy of Great Britain, we cannot otherwise hope for. He was a British subject—it was in Great Britain he first saw the light of day.—He loved the British Constitution, which his profession required him to study—loved that flag which had braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze. He felt the heart beat quickly and the blood tingle in his veins when he spoke of it. He loved his country as dearly as any one in the Province—for there lay the ashes of his forefathers—but if he must weigh the ashes of a dead ancestor against the living flesh and blood of his child, he could not doubt which scale would kick the beam. And as he wished to remain a British subject he thought it advisable to let the Home Government see that we had not only British hearts but British pluck, and not beg for our rights, while we at the same time admitted that we had no Credit, and asked Great Britain to endorse our bonds as security for a loan from British Capitalists.

It had been said he was one hundred years ahead of the times. This he denied—the legislature of the Province was lagging so far behind the spirit of the age. Objections had been made to him on the score of youth—he was older than W. J. Ritchie was when he was first returned for St. John, and as old as John H. Gray, one of the newly elected members for the County of St. John. Youth was the season of vigour, energy, and hope; and such was the state of the Province, that it required a large share of all these, to bring about a better state of things. These he had, and was ready and willing to place them at the service of the people.

He was favorable to Education. Government should make provision for the essential branches of Education—but the luxuries, that is, the higher branches, ought to be paid for by those who receive them. He then spoke of that ill used, and wretchedly remunerated, but useful body of men—the Parish School-masters. He contended that all men, but more particularly those possessing property, were interested in the education of the rising generation, as it rendered that property more valuable and secure, and therefore the wealthy man should be compelled to contribute largely towards the education of the family of his poor neighbour. He was also opposed to one man holding a number of offices.