

Mr. J. spoke on several other matters, but we have given his views on the principal points. He closed by saying—if they considered his his views on Colonial measures correct, and had confidence in him, he should be proud to serve them; but in the choice they made, he hoped they would select those who were prepared and able, to grapple with the abuses and exigencies of the times; men whose motto was—"never say, die."

Mr Johnson's address was very well received, and was loudly cheered at its conclusion.

Mr STREET addressed the people at considerable length, the substance of which we give below:—

GENTLEMEN.—In presenting myself before you, as a Candidate for your suffrages on the present occasion, I beg leave to state, that I do so now, as I have always done, depending upon my own character and standing among you for success. Gentlemen, since I have had the honor of representing you, it has always been my pride and ambition to serve you faithfully, and to discharge my duty in that way, which in my mind was best calculated to promote your interests and the prosperity of the Province at large; and when I reflect that I have this day been put in nomination by Gentlemen, whose interests, associations, and station in the County, are such as to identify them with its prosperity, I cannot but flatter myself, I have in some degree accomplished the object of my ambition. Gentlemen, on ordinary occasions I should have felt it sufficient to refer to my political career since I have been a public man, and to have told you "you must judge the future by the past." But in the present commercial depression and popular excitement as to the management of the public affairs of the Province, I deem it proper to give, and conceive you have a right to expect, an exposition of my political views, the heads of which I have partially put forth in a written address to the Freeholders.

Gentlemen, in speaking of the state of the Province, I shall, in the first place, take the liberty of contrasting the present state of this County with what it was in 1819, when I first became a resident thereof. It was then, comparatively speaking, a mere lumbering county, devoid of Roads, Agricultural improvements, and of many of the natural comforts of life. What is it now? I answer, second to none in its farming operations, roads, and other internal improvements; The rural districts at this period present to the eye a luxuriant picture scarcely to be surpassed; the inhabitants are blessed with an abundance of the common necessities of life, the production of the soil. Our commercial operations, it is true, are reduced to a low ebb, in consequence of the low price in the British market for timber and lumber, hitherto the staple of the country. That has arisen mainly from this and the adjoining Province having turned too much of the productive powers of labor and capital to one particular branch of trade; this together with the continental disturbances in Europe, has had the effect of glutting the wood markets in Great Britain, and thereby creating the depression in trade, under which we are now, and have been laboring for the last four years, this together with the failure of the crops in 1848, has, no doubt, led to much distress in the Country, the natural consequence of bestowing too large a portion of our labour and capital on any particular branch of trade or business. The depression of the Timber Trade in 1848-9, naturally from dire necessity, turned a vast amount of the productive powers of labor which had hitherto been engaged in lumbering, to the cultivation of the soil; and what has been the consequence? Why, an abundance of all the necessities of life throughout the length and breadth of the Province. I call your attention to this fact because it has been the fashion to attribute all the distress that prevailed in the County during the years 1848-9 to the mal-administration of our affairs in this and the mother country, whereas I believe the fault to be in a great measure our own, and that we have the remedy in our own hands, by dividing our powers of labor and capital, and turning a large portion thereof to agricultural and other industrial pursuits, more immediately connected with the internal improvement of our country. Self-reliance is what we require. If we can only be brought to depend more upon the growth and productions of our own soil and our own manufactures, instead of living upon the growth productions and manufactures of foreign countries, we should see this Province become a flourishing country, and the inhabitants blessed with plenty; and if the present depression should lead to such a result as I trust it may, the calamities we now complain of will prove a blessing. I make these remarks because I am one of those who believe the country in which we live to be a good country, and one in which all honest, industrious and temperate men, may not only make a good living, but amass wealth. So much for the present state of the Province. I will now turn to the heads of my written address to the freeholders, as containing my political views. Gentlemen, I have to tell you I am no annexationist, because I believe that such a step would rather add to, than remedy the evils we complain of. We live under a good and happy constitution, by which our rights and privileges are fully protected, I am therefore against any change in that respect. I have also told you that I am in favor of encouraging our agriculture and domestic manufactures; by such means the Country will become independent. I have also told you that our rural economy is bad. Gentlemen, we are generally speaking, living beyond our

means—the natural consequence of devoting too much of our attention to lumbering operations. We can never prosper until this evil be corrected. I have told you I am in favor of a reciprocal trade with the United States, but decidedly opposed to the present one-sided system of free trade, by which we allow their exports to come in almost duty free, while they impose upon our exports some 20 or 30 per cent. This must be ruinous to the best interest of the Province. Reciprocal trade is to allow their exports to enter our ports upon the same tariff or duty that they impose upon ours. And until such fair terms can be accomplished, Gentlemen, I think we ought to submit to any privation rather than trade with them upon any others, and in the meantime be content with our own productions and manufactures. Such a step, in my opinion, would bring them to fair terms sooner than mere negotiation upon the subject.

Gentlemen, I have told you that I am not disposed to submit to that unconstitutional dictation on the part of the Colonial Minister, relative to the management of our local affairs, by which our Provincial Legislature is to be prohibited from passing laws for the encouragement of Trade and other pursuits, which he may disapprove of. This, I think, is an infringement upon our constitutional and parliamentary privileges, now that the right of governing and managing our own local affairs has been conceded to us; and such I shall ever resist. Gentlemen, I have told you that I am opposed to the present Executive Government, from thinking its members politically dishonest. Some of the members of that government I have a high regard for as men, but many of their measures I am decidedly opposed to. The departmental part of the Government appear to me to be actuated solely by the desire of retaining office. Such is not the Government the country requires.

I have also told you, that I am in favor of Municipal Corporations, by which, I conceive, the local affairs of each county may be better regulated than by the present system; at the same time, I think this change should be progressively introduced, and not at once forced upon the whole Province: what I mean by being progressively introduced is, that each County should have it as soon as the inhabitants or the majority of them desire, and apply for it; some counties may be ripe and fit for it, while others may not be sufficiently far advanced in population and intelligence for such a change; in such cases, it might prove injurious to force it upon them at once. Gentlemen, I have also said, I am an advocate for the improvement of the Roads and Bridges, and the other internal communications throughout the Province. I deem this a subject by no means of secondary consideration, but highly essential to the prosperity and welfare of the inhabitants. In no way, in my opinion, can the Legislature better encourage the settlement and agricultural operations of the country, and add more to the comforts of the people, than by making good Roads to their doors, and thereby giving them easy access to the market, towns, churches, and schools, and early intercourse with their neighbors and friends: nothing, I believe, in a new country tends more to disseminate philanthropy and civilization among the people. Gentlemen, I am also in favor of promoting the cause of Education, as one of the highest importance to the well-being of the community, and am in favor of a system combining secular and religious knowledge. In my opinion, Gentlemen, to disseminate education and knowledge, without accompanying it with those general and fundamental principles of christianity, in which all christian denominations agree, may prove a curse instead of a blessing to the rising generation. Gentlemen, I shall now conclude with a few remarks upon the reduction of the salaries of our public functionaries. I am in favor of retrenchment as far as is consistent with a due regard to the public service and good faith. I am in favor of a prospective reduction of the salaries of many of our officials, because I think many of them entirely too high; at the same time, I am of opinion, that we cannot touch the salaries of the present incumbents, without a breach of good faith, inasmuch as when they were appointed to office and gave up their other avocations, it was upon the strength of the salaries then attached by Law to the office. I therefore think it would be wrong and unjust to reduce that salary during the continuance of the present incumbents, besides such were the terms upon which the casual and territorial revenues of the Province were conceded, and upon which the Civil List Bill was passed. Under these circumstances can we for a moment suppose or believe that if the Legislature were to pass a law, reducing the salaries of the present office holders that the Home Government would ever sanction it, seeing it would be in direct violation of the Civil List Compact, and of good faith. I believe the Home Government would not sanction such a step, and upon this principal have the Legislature passed a law reducing the salaries of all future incumbents of the public offices, with the exception of that of the Lieutenant Governor, and that will probably be done the ensuing winter. This is all fair and correct, because when new office-holders come in, they know the salaries they are to receive, and can therefore have no reason to complain of reduction. These, gentlemen, are my views upon the various points brought under your notice, and which have been the cause of much discussion and excitement throughout the Province, and of this Country in particular, and I have deemed it proper and right to lay my views and opinions thus fully, honestly, and fairly before you. If they are such as to meet your approbation (and I sincerely trust they may, because I be-

lieve them to be sound and constitutional) you will, I trust, have no hesitation in believing me. But if, on the contrary, they are not such, and you can among the candidates now before you, find one in whom you can place more confidence, and one whom you think can serve you better, and whose views may be more in accordance with yours, of course you have a right to reject me and choose him; but, gentlemen, beware of clap-trap promises, got up to please the eye and tickle the fancy for the occasion, and think well before you cast off an old friend who has served you well and faithfully for a new one, who promises to do so, and effect problematical changes.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your patient hearing and kind attention, and in conclusion have only to assure you that if I am returned, I shall do all in my power to promote your best interests, and that of the Province at large.

Mr SUTTON.—This gentleman occupied the attention of the audience but a short time, among other things he said:—

He was favorable to retrenchment in all the departments of Government. He detailed the enormous expenses of the present system of Government, and said he desired reform in the widest sense of the word. Thought the people had a right to manage their own local affairs, and would therefore advocate Municipal Corporations, the Initiation of Money Grants, and was opposed to the power now exercised by the Colonial Secretary. He was also favorable to Education, and would give any measure, having that object in view, his warmest support. He said he was no orator, but Mr Johnson had spoken so well on the abuses which existed in the Province, and pointed out the remedies, he would not trespass on their time, but in conclusion would say, his views on public matters and men, coincided exactly with those of Mr J., and if they placed him in the honorable situation of a Representative, he would use his best exertions, and all his ability to carry them out.

Mr WILLISTON, then spoke, but as we heard his remarks very indistinctly, and wishing to act fairly towards him, we obtained from him a copy of his speech, which we give below.

Gentlemen Freeholders: I appear before you under very great disadvantage, owing to an article that appeared in the Gleaner of the 18th instant, which must have been intended to injure me at this election, and I think it but due to you to inform you that I have commenced proceedings against the Publisher of the Gleaner, for trying to injure me, and particularly at this time, and therefore I shall appeal to a Jury of my country in the matter.

Gentlemen, my proceedings relative to this election has been, and will be, soliciting your support, without wishing either to detract from the merits of the candidates, or shewing a preference to any; all I want is, to allow the freeholders to express an opinion freely and openly, and I shall be satisfied with the result. But I must be allowed to give my dissent from the doings of the late house, as a body, for they appear to have forgot, that the country is labouring under the greatest privation; they seem to have forgot the situation of the Farmer, Mechanic, and Labourer, who are the bone and sinew of the country, for notwithstanding the altered circumstances of the country, they have allowed the Salaries of the different officers borne on the revenue of the Province, to remain at the same rate as they were when the situation of the Province was very different to what it is now. Money was plenty, and every thing was dear; but now, every thing that the public officers require is cheap, as also labour. Then is it but fair that the officers, whose salaries are paid from your hard earnings, should be reduced in proportion to the reduction of the earnings of those who must raise the means to pay these offices. Mr. Street has put a case, he says, would any man engage a Labourer for a year and discharge him at the end of six months, and pay him for that time, and tell him he could not continue him in his employment the remainder of the year if he would not take two thirds of the amount originally agreed for. My answer is, yes. If the circumstances of the country had altered to my prejudice, as to prevent my paying the amount originally agreed for. I should say so. I should tell a man so situated, that I could not pay him the large sum agreed for, unless I bore hard on them from whom I expected to receive the means to pay such a man. Now the same will apply in the same way to the gentlemen holding offices. They should be compelled to give way to the times as well as others. I should be for reducing their salaries one third; and officers not required for the good of the people, I would abolish at once.

I should be for reducing the Fees in all Judicial proceedings, and have the fees put in such a way as that the gentlemen of the Law should not make different Bills of Costs for the same service. I should wish to see the proceedings simplified, and have the mode of pleading entirely altered; the declaration done away with, and in its place, I should have the Plaintiff to state his cause of action in a few simple words, that any man could understand; the cost of which would be one shilling instead of eight pounds, as it is at present in many cases.

\*The words used by Mr Williston were, that he had prosecuted the "responsible party." We requested him to tell the people that it was us he had sued, not the writer, who we consider the responsible party. As he made no reply, we presume he did not hear us.

As regards the payment of artificers, mechanics, and laborers for their work, it appears to me that the whole system should be altered, and that all the productive labor should be paid for in cash, and that no contract for labor should be binding unless for money payments. Such a law should be allowed to come into operation six or eight months after passed, to give the employer time to make arrangements for the change, and I have no hesitation in saying, unless such a change is made, the farming interest cannot prosper, because while the laborer is paid in goods as at present, farmers cannot get cash for their produce, and without cash being in circulation, there is no prospect of the farmer prospering in his business; and from what I know of the laboring classes, I am sure that the merchant who has men and pays them in money, that a part at least will be returned for supplies, if to be had at cash price. By this mode of payments prices would be uniform, and business done in a much more wholesome way than at present, and in the end the employer would be the gainer as well as the laborer, and all branches of society would be benefited.

The Agricultural Interest should have every encouragement that the Legislature could bestow without prejudice to other branches of industry, for on the agricultural produce this country must in a great measure depend, particularly while our trade remains so limited. In articles that the Farmer can supply the wants of the people, I should be willing to grant reasonable protection, that, with a system of cash payments in the way I have hinted, I think the Farmer would be benefited, as in securing him a domestic market for what he can spare.

The Fisheries should command encouragement, the want of remunerative markets prevents capital from being embarked in that trade. The governments of France and the United States grant large bounties for the catch of fish, therefore they can undersell British merchants in the various markets of Europe, and the West Indies. This is a subject should be carefully investigated, and the fostering hand of the Legislature should be applied in providing a remedy.

Trade should be encouraged in every possible way, no duties should be levied but such as are wanted to pay the public officers reasonable salaries, make roads and support schools. If arrangements could be made with the United States, for the interchange of commodities, the growth, production, and manufacture of the respective countries, on the plan of fixed and moderate duties, it would be of great advantage to the Province.

Ship Building is our only trade worth having with the mother country, and should have attention from the Legislature in any way consistently with other interests.

Municipal Corporations have been partially introduced. I am willing that it should be extended, as far as possible, but not unless the people requires it. On this subject the inhabitants should hold meetings, and instruct their representatives what they require, because to change the institutions of the Province, without consulting its people, would not be acting right, but when Municipal Corporations are wanted, let the people petition, and then their members will know what is wanted, and I should in such case grant them their wishes, for I think the constituency of this Province is quite well enough informed to judge of what would be of advantage, as well as any other country about their local matters, the constituency should advise their representatives, and if they did not comply then they would know where the fault rested.

As regards the sale of Timber Berths I am doubtful if the private sale system would not be attended with greater evils than the present mode of disposal, for if any one could get a license by applying at once, the monopolists who have their agent in Fredericton would on the first of May cover the best timber grounds with applications, and the operative lumberman would find to his loss that when he might send for a license that the berth had been forestalled by the wealthy man, but when it is put to public sale, the man who wishes to monopolize will be told, if you trouble me in the berth wanted now, I will retaliate, and by this means it is seldom that the upset price is raised so as to injure any one.

Responsible Government being introduced, we should have it in operation, and not in name only. The Government should have the Initiation of Money Grants, and the House should insist on the Government to assume the responsibility of administering the affairs of the Province in a way to be satisfactory to the people, and if that is not done they should make room for others.

I do not wish to find fault with our old members in particular, for I think they are as honest as any in the Province, but it appears to me that a change is necessary, for the old House has been yoked together so long, that I fear they will sympathise too much with each other, and with their old acquaintances at Head Quarters, to expect any reduction in the public expenditure—a measure that must be effected.

The mode of holding pluralities of offices I quite disapprove of, and a change is absolutely called for.

Gentlemen—I regret exceedingly that from my state of health, I have not been able to do justice to the subject of this day's proceedings, but I can assure you I am sincere in what I have hinted at: should I be returned, I shall to the best of my power, try to aid in accomplishing.

Mr GOODFELLOW spoke briefly, and said:

He appeared before them under very embarrassing circumstances. He had just come