

Requisition was immediately handed to the Sheriff, to convene a public meeting, and afford the people an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the subject. The meeting was held at the Court House on the 18th instant, when Resolutions were passed, which have in substance been embodied in a Petition to the Legislature. The allegations in this petition are based on statistics which your varied occupations may not leave you time to collect; and my principal object in addressing you, is to bring them under your notice, together with the conclusions drawn from them.

The Bill divides the Province into five Electoral Districts, each of which is to send four members to the Council. The petition alleges that in each of these Districts there is one populous or leading county, which contains a majority of the population of the whole District, and which in most cases, also, contains a majority of votes. These counties are, Northumberland, Westmorland, York, Charlotte, and St. John. For proof of this, I beg to refer you to the following statistics, premising that the population is taken from the census of 1840, and the votes are the result of the General Election of 1850, as near as could be computed, and which I believe will be found substantially correct:

Population in 1840.		
Northumberland,	14,620	
Gloucester,	7,751	
Restigouche,	3,161	10,912
Majority in favor of Northumberland,	3,708	
Westmorland,	13,086	
Albert,	4,600	
Kent,	7,477	12,077
Majority in favor of Westmorland,	1,009	
York,	13,995	
Queen's,	8,232	
Sunbury,	4,260	12,492
Majority in favor of York,	1,503	
Charlotte,	18,178	
Carleton, { not divided }	13,381	
Victoria,	4,797	
Majority in favor of Charlotte,	32,957	
Saint John,	14,464	
King's,	18,493	
Majority in favor of St. John,	18,493	
Number of Votes polled in 1850.		
Northumberland,	1,219	
Gloucester,	809	
Restigouche,	320	1,129
Majority in favor of Northumberland,	90	
Westmorland,	1,666	
Albert,	506	
Kent,	989	1,495
Majority in favor of Westmorland,	171	
York,	1,294	
Queen's,	572	
Sunbury,	412	1,284
Majority in favor of York,	10	
Charlotte,	1,476	
Carleton,	837	
Victoria,	654	1,491
Majority against Charlotte,	15	
Saint John,	1,169	
King's,	1,502	
Majority against St. John,	333	

Westmorland was not divided when the census was taken, but I believe the above estimate of population is above what the district now included in Albert actually contained. The votes polled in Restigouche were not published, but I estimated the electors in that County to bear the same proportion to the population as in Gloucester.

A glance at the above population will show, that in every instance, as I before stated, the principal county in each District contains a majority of the whole inhabitants.

You will also perceive that Northumberland has a majority of votes over Gloucester and Restigouche, of at least 90. Westmorland, over Kent and Albert, of 171. York, at the General Election, had a majority over Sunbury and Queen's, of 10 votes; but, at the late election in York 165 more votes were polled than at the preceding one, which would give a majority of 175. In the case of Charlotte there is a minority of 15 votes; but, should a contest come between a constituency like that of Charlotte, one of the most compact in the Province, and a constituency composed of people of a different origin, speaking different languages, inhabiting different counties, and scattered over a territory above 150 miles in length, the result could scarcely be considered doubtful. King's county appears to have the large majority of 333 votes over St. John; but it is well known that a great number of the inhabitants of St. John are freeholders in King's; probably sufficient to turn the scale in favor of the former. Be this as it may, I think this would be the only District of the five where the principal county would not invariably control the election. And even should King's succeed in returning a part of the Representatives for that District, the whole of the Councilors would still be returned by six Counties, while the other eight would be deprived of the benefits of a local representation. For I firmly believe that were either of them to bring forward a candidate, it would be only to expose themselves to disappointment, perhaps to ridicule.

A cursory perusal of this Bill, might lead to the conclusion, that in framing it, reference was had merely to territorial arrangements; but there are several coincidences, which appear to render quite a different conclusion

more than probable. To these I shall now turn your attention.

In the first place, it is worthy of remark, that all the members of the Government reside in the five most favored Counties. And, as these Counties have therefore enjoyed the almost exclusive privilege of having the members of the Legislative Council selected from them, they may now be almost disposed to view it as a vested right; and, if so, a measure that would secure the same right, though in a somewhat different form, could not fail to be popular. I trust, however, that all the respectable portion of the inhabitants of these Counties would disapprove of a measure conferring advantage on them at the expense of justice to their fellow subjects. Still, if popularity be the object sought, I have no doubt that among certain classes, the measure would bring to the members of the Government in these respective Counties a considerable share of it.

In the next place it would appear, that in framing the Bill, the prospect it would have of support in the respective branches of the Legislature, was not lost sight of. To the Upper Branch, the five counties already referred to, furnish the following quota of members—Northumberland 2, Westmorland 2, (besides Mr. Crane, who relinquished his seat, and Mr. Allison, who was appointed, and did not take his seat) Saint John 2, Charlotte 4, and York 6; in all 16 members. The remaining two are from Sunbury and Carleton. Now, as the bill would virtually double the members to the first named three counties, leave Charlotte in possession of its present advantages, and deprive York of only 2 members, unless the Council should feel a repugnance to a measure calculated to dissolve itself, I think the Bill cannot fail to meet its approbation, as a more favorable one to the Counties from which the members are selected, could not be submitted. The two members residing in Sunbury and Carleton, might oppose it, but their opposition would be fruitless, and however unsatisfactory it might be to the other seven counties, they have no one in that house to express their opinions.

Again, the five Counties in question return each four members to the House of Assembly, and the City of Saint John two, which, with the Hon. Mr. Partelow's vote, as a member of the Government, would make 23 to support the bill; while there would be only 18 to oppose it, even were the members from the other nine counties unanimous. From the above it will be seen, that these five counties possess numerical strength to carry any measure on which they can agree themselves. I trust, however, from what I know of the gentlemen connected with them, that self-respect will prevail over self-interest, and, that however numerically weak the other nine counties are, they will have equal justice meted out to them.

The Petition referred to, not only objects to the territorial arrangement, but to the enormous expense which must be incurred in carrying out the measure, should it become law. That a General Election should in the first instance take place, for the choice of the whole Council, is absolutely necessary. But, that another should be held every second year, merely to elect four members, is neither necessary nor desirable. In the fourteen Counties of the Province there are one hundred polling places. By the provisions of the Bill it would therefore require the services of five Principal Returning Officers, 14 Sheriffs, 86 Deputy, or Assistant Returning Officers and 100 Poll Clerks; with the necessary number of Magistrates, and Peace Officers, to elect five Councilors. The charge on the Provincial Treasury for a General Election of 41 Members of the House of Assembly, is about £1000, or £1200, say from £25 to £30 each. The same expense, with the addition of the salaries of five Returning Officers, would be incurred for the election of five Councilors, or from £200, to £250 each. And, as there must be at least one Election for Members of the House of Assembly, and two to fill up vacancies in the Council, every four years, the above enormous charge on the Treasury, would be incurred every period of sixteen months; and even this would be a trifle, compared with the loss of time and expenses incurred by 15,000 voters attending the polls.

The above are some of the considerations which lead me to conclude that the measure in question is very objectionable in its details.

And now, Sir, permit me to remind you, that, in your lately published Card to the Electors of Northumberland, you denounced clap-net measures, and pledged yourself to an honest, straightforward independent course, and I consider that pledge as made, not only for yourself, but for the Government of which you are the Leader. I am at a loss to determine, whether the Bill in question, was hastily prepared, and submitted to the Legislature without taking time to consider it in all its bearings; or whether it was artfully framed, to gain for the members of the Executive Government, a certain amount of popularity in their respective Counties, and at the same time to ensure its passage through the Legislature, without any formidable opposition. Your future course with regard to it will be the best help to a correct conclusion. If on more mature consideration, you abandon the objectionable provisions of the Bill, although some may charge you with indecision, every well-disposed person in the country, will give you credit for that honest straightforward conduct to which you stand pledged; but if, possessing the power, you employ it, in carrying through the Legislature, a measure so unjust and oppressive, to one half the Counties of the Province, I have no hesitation in asserting, that you will violate your solemn

pledge to your constituents, and forget your claim to the confidence of the country.

I wish it to be understood, that I address you neither as a friend or an enemy to the Government, but simply as a Freeholder of Kent, who wishes to see justice done to the County in which he resides.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,
DAVID WARK.

SECOND EDITION.

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 25.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Pierce,

Would you have the goodness to insert in your valuable journal the following little scrap of information which will be interesting to some of your juvenile readers:

The Prizes offered in my school for a short essay on the Pleasures of Home, were, after a very careful and attentive examination of the merits of the composition by the trustees, awarded as follows:

- 1st prize to Master Henry Booth.
- 2nd " Miss Emma Peters.
- 3rd " Master Geo. F. Henderson.
- 4th " Miss Ann Quinlan.
- 5th " Miss Margaret A. Millar.

There were eight pupils in all who competed for the Prizes.

I would here beg leave most respectfully to thank the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly attended our School on the day of examination, and I hope they will continue to evince that interest in education which it so eminently deserves.

I remain Sir, yours &c.,

DAVIS P. HOWE.

Chatham, March 24, 1851.

General Agency for New Brunswick of the Washington County Mutual Insurance Company,

St. John, March 21, 1851.

Mr. Pierce,

I have just received by Mail, a copy of the Gleaner of 17th March, in which I notice a communication signed by Richard Hutchison, containing very much flummery but very few facts.

Mr. Hutchison admits the course pursued by the Company to be legal, I must therefore request him to publish the particulars which he states "he has in readiness when called upon," and I shall then better understand his complaint, and be enabled to reply to it; at the same time I would caution Mr. H. to be more careful how he attempts to slander a Company which is well known to be liberal and prompt, in the settlement of all fair and legal claims. I suggest to your correspondent the necessity of a better acquaintance with foreign languages before he attempts French (so called) quotations, and, for the present, leave him to enjoy the mixed society of Franklins, Spartans, and Bumbles, begging him to take care that he does not himself receive a succession of well-merited raps such as fell on "Oliver's" crown for a similar offence, viz: demanding that to which he had no legal right.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

CHAS. L. STREET, General Agent.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Provincial Legislature. On Monday the House of Assembly was occupied in discussing the bill introduced by Mr. Taylor, for authorising the issue of Provincial debentures, payable in twenty years, for the purpose of aiding in procuring a loan of money to assist the inhabitants of Fredericton to rebuild the burnt district with fire-proof materials.

Mr. Hayward then introduced a Resolution affirming that the resignation of Judge Botsford was a conditional resignation, and should not have been accepted unless the conditions were to be fulfilled. The Resolution also in strong language refers to a passage in a despatch from Sir William Colebrooke, in which an implied reflection is cast upon Judge Botsford, as well as on the late Chief Justice Chipman, by complimenting Mr. Justice Carter and Mr. Justice Parker at their expense. The hon. mover of the Resolution spoke long and eloquently of the services of Judge Botsford. Mr. Gray seconded the resolution in a speech replete with elevated sentiments, and did full justice to the merits of the retired Judges.

A discussion followed, during which not a single speaker failed to pay his tribute of respect to Judge Botsford, in terms which must have been gratifying to the friends and relatives of that hon. gentleman.—Head Quarters.

Friday, March 21.—The House, on motion of the Hon. Attorney General, next went into committee on the St. Andrew's Railway Facility Bill. Speeches were made in support of the bill (some of them very able), by the Hon. Attorney General, and Messrs. Robinson, Beardsley, Taylor, English, Pickard, Wilmot, Needham, Cutler, Macpherson, Thomson, Barbare, and Hayward.

The Bill was opposed by Messrs. Gilbert, Steves, Johnson, Ritchie, and Gordon.

At half-past five the division was taken, and the Bill was sustained by a vote of 27 to 12. Yeas—Porter, Robinson, Taylor, English, Pickard, Beardsley, Rice, Botsford, Wiliston, Crane, Scollard, Gray, Partelow, Rankin, Macpherson, Wilmot, Cutler, Thomson, Barbare, Hayward, Needham, Chapman, Parry, Simonds, McPhelim, Nays—Ritchie, Reed, Gordon, Steves, Stiles, Montgomery, Earle, Gilbert, Johnson, McLeod, Hanington, Tilley. The Bill then passed.

The Fisheries.—We understand that the Fishery Committee of the Assembly, of which J. H. Gray, Esq., is Chairman, is now sitting to receive testimony as to the granting of bounties, and the preparation of new enactments for the inspection of pickled and smoked fish, and the protection of the Sea and River Fisheries of the Province generally. We understand that this Committee will probably sit during all next week, and such of our fishermen and others as feel an interest in the important subjects under investigation, ought to appear before the Committee, and make their desires and opinions known.—St. John Courier.

On Tuesday, the loan bill for the city of Fredericton was recommitted, and received from Mr. Botsford, Mr. Steves, Mr. Hanington, and Mr. Johnson, the most determined opposition. It was finally agreed to report progress.

Deaths.

At Chatham, on Sunday morning last, JOHN CAMERON MACBRAIN, infant son of Mr James Patterson, aged one year and nine months.

Timothy and Clover Seeds, &c.

The Subscriber has on Sale—Timothy and Clover SEED;

Yellow, Aberdeen, and Swedish TURNIP SEED. They are of the growth of 1850, and superior articles.

Also—a VEGETABLE CUTTER—an excellent labor-saving machine for farmers. WM. MUIRHEAD.

Chatham, March 24, 1851.

FOR SALE.

The TWO STORY HOUSE situate on the front street, in Chatham, lately occupied by the subscriber, adjoining the Store of Mr John Bryson. The House is 29 feet by 22 feet, with a Kitchen, Bedroom, and Sitting Room on the first flat, and four good Rooms on the second flat, all well finished. The Celler is the size of the House, substantially built of stone, and has in it a good well of water. The Premises are in good repair, well calculated for a Boarding House, and could easily be converted into a Store.

If not sold at Private Sale before the first day of May next, the property will be sold at Public Auction, on that day at noon, on the premises. For Terms, and farther particulars apply to

CORNELIUS MCCARTHY.

Chatham, 11th March, 1851.

AMATEUR PERFORMANCE.

MORTON'S CELEBRATED COMEDY

OR

"The Road to Ruin."

Will be performed in the large Temperance Building now in course of erection, near the residence of John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., Chatham, on the evening of WEDNESDAY the 26th instant, at half past 7 o'clock. The proceeds of the Play will be applied to the completion of the Building.

Tickets—to front seats 2s., back seats 1s., to be had at the stores of Messrs. Johnson & Mackie, Alex. Loudoun, and C. L. Hawbolt. Children admitted at half price. Chatham, March 17, 1851.

New Brunswick,

NORTHUMBERLAND, S. S.

To the Sheriff of the County of Northumberland, or any Constable within the said County: Greeting.

Whereas DAVID JOHNSTON and WILLIAM PARK, Executors of the last Will and Testament of JAMES McCULLAM, late of the Parish of Newcastle, in the said County, deceased, have represented to me that the Personal Estate of the said deceased is insufficient to pay the debts due by the said deceased, and have prayed that License may issue to authorize them to sell all, or so much of the Real Estate of the said deceased as may be necessary for the payment of the said debts:

You are therefore required to cite the Heirs of the said deceased, personally to be and appear before me, at a Court of Probate, to be held at my Office, in the Parish of Chatham, on WEDNESDAY, the Second day of April next, at the hour of Eleven of the clock in the forenoon, to shew cause why License should not be granted to the said Executors, to sell so much of the said Real Estate of the said deceased as may be requisite and necessary for the purpose of paying the said debts. And you are further required to cite and require the said Executors, and all and every the Creditors, and all other persons interested in the said Estate, personally to be and appear before me at the time and place aforesaid, with their Vouchers and Papers, in order that I may then and there proceed to hear and examine the proofs of the said Parties, and the validity or legality of the Debts and Demands alleged to be existing against the said Estate.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the said Court, the Twenty-seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One.

THOS. H. PETERS,

Surrogate.

GEORGE KERR, Register of Probates for said County.