

Communications.

WHO IS TO BE SPEAKER?

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—It is currently reported in this quarter, that the late Hon. D. HANNINGTON, is to be brought forward by the old *Family Compact*, as a candidate for the Speakership; and strange as this may appear, there are some things that have taken place of late, that would seem to favor this report: for instance, his honor has just left the Government. Now, there certainly must have been something very pretty, as well as lucrative, in prospect, before he would yield up the title of "Honorable," for no man could be better pleased than he was with it. When any of his satellites (for he has a good many) would call him "Honorable," his dark eye would brighten up, and seem delighted: yes, sir, he sees the £. s. d. in prospect, or he would have held on. In proof of this assertion, I wish to let your readers know, that on the day of that gentleman's nomination in Dorchester, he promised, that if the people would return him, he would leave the Government. How it has happened that he has remained until the eleventh hour, is perhaps best known to himself, and a few others on the "Rock." To say the least of the matter, it was cowardly of him to desert his party in their extremity; it did not show his gratitude to that Government which he had helped to make appear ridiculous, to abandon them, although they, and former Tory governments, had heaped so many favors on a person so unworthy of them, and void of any political principle. As a proof that his honor's word cannot be depended on, he pledged himself as a member of the Government, on the day of his nomination, that the Bye Road money should come out, and be expended. Every person in the Province knows how his promise was fulfilled.

On all matters of importance he has acted with the Tories; yet, when among the Liberals, he wants to be acknowledged as "one of them." A Liberal, indeed! taking office after office under a Tory. This reminds me of the inconsistency of certain individuals, who, from their mental blindness, have a great itching after lighted tapers and "man millinery." Liberals of New Brunswick! be on your guard against imposition. If you vote for a Conservative Speaker, go for an honest one; one that never sailed under false colours, and do not be cajoled into the belief that Daniel Hannington is a Liberal. Give him to understand that you appreciate his motives in deserting the camp, when it was tumbling about his ears, and then try to make a virtue of necessity, and at the same time add another link to the chain of oppression, by becoming the greatest Commoner of our Province.

In order to establish the foregoing facts, of this gentleman's holding with the hare and running with the dogs, let us see how many offices he holds. We have already seen whence they came. First, he is Deputy Treasurer, for which service he receives ten per cent. upon all monies collected, by a law of his own making. Next, he is Comptroller, or Custom House officer, for which he has a large salary, and very little to do. He was, and perhaps is yet, Tide Waiter, at £30 per annum. This is a sinecure. He is also Commissioner of Indians, and Captain of Militia; but to give him his due, he is no over strict when acting in that capacity. And last, though not least, a Magistrate; and in that capacity, on a late occasion, on the Bench, he immortalised himself with both rum-sellers and drunkards, by his openly advocating the granting of licences to every tavern-keeper and petty shop-keeper in the county, who choose to avail himself of his goodness; and in this he was too successful. And this is the person who would like to pawn himself upon the free people of New Brunswick, through their Representatives, as a Liberal. The trimming policy of this gentleman, coupled with the means used by his friends, to gain his last election, will long be remembered by the free men of

WESTMORELAND.

Westmoreland, January 29, 1851.

Lost.

On Saturday night last, in the Town of Chatham, a LADY'S WHITE AND BLACK PLAID, and a CHILD'S GREY FUR VICTORINE. Any person leaving the same at the Gleaner Office will be rewarded.

Miramichi, 10th January, 1851.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1851.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Legislature of this Province met on Thursday week. The speech of Sir John Harvey does not contain anything of moment—we have consequently not published it, but it appears it has given rise to a lengthy and fiery debate. The Nova Scotian of Wednesday last says:—

"The House met on Thursday and adjourned after the usual preliminaries. The day following, the address, in reply to His Excellency's Speech, was moved and was quietly passing, when Mr Johnston rose and objected to the clause in reference to the railroad, on the ground that it involved an implied sanction of the policy of the Government on that momentous subject. Here it is:—

"Under all the circumstances in which the question of constructing a Railroad from the Atlantic to the boundary line of this province was presented, during the recess, we respectfully state that, in our opinion, your Excellency adopted measures of wise precaution, by placing yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Ministers, and sending one of the members of your Council to England, to ascertain the extent of pecuniary aid and encouragement, which the Home Government and Imperial Parliament might be expected to afford, to this great intercolonial and international project. When the pending negotiation has been brought to a close, and a measure submitted, it will receive at our hands that grave consideration, which its importance and the heavy responsibilities it will entail, demand from faithful guardians of the public funds.

"To this clause, after the usual amount of special pleading, and profuse expressions of 'regret' that an overpowering sense of public duty, compelled him to oppose it, the hon. and learned member moved the following amendment which was seconded by his colleague Mr Whitman.

"While we duly appreciate the important bearing of the proceedings at the late Convention at Portland, we respectfully state to your Excellency that until the nature and objects of the mission mentioned in your Excellency's speech shall be more fully explained, and the authority and instructions of the delegate commissioned by your Excellency shall be officially communicated to us; and your Excellency shall be prepared to inform us of the particulars and termination of the negotiation conducted by your Excellency with the Imperial authorities; we do not feel ourselves in a condition to express an opinion on the policy adopted by the provincial government in reference to the subject of international railway communication.

"When however the whole question shall be before us, it shall receive at our hands that grave consideration which its importance and the heavy responsibilities which it will entail, demand from faithful guardians of the public funds.

"A Debate, which occupied the remainder of the day followed.

"Since penning the above we have to record the defeat of the Obstructives, and the passage of the Address by a triumphant majority. The Debate which was adjourned on Friday evening, was resumed on the following morning. The house divided about dusk when the amendment was lost 25 to 14.

"Mr Johnston's amendment being disposed of, Mr Killam rose and proposed another condemnatory of the policy of the Government in sending a Delegate to England before ascertaining the views of the house in reference to the Railway—which was seconded by Mr Harrington.

"For the amendment, 13; against it 27. The amendments being disposed of the Original Clause was moved and carried 25 to 15,—the remaining clauses of the Address were then severally put and passed nem. con. and the house adjourned to 12 o'clock on Monday."

Mr Creelman, member for Chelchester, has been appointed Financial Secretary of the Province.

The Halifax papers speak of the severity of the weather. The sleighing is also very good.

THE RAILWAY.—The Novascotian has the following encouraging paragraph on this important subject:

"We learn with much pleasure, that previous to Mr Cunard leaving this city for England, that gentleman expressed himself in the most favorable terms relative to the Railroad Mission to England; also that the Hon. Mr Howe was the only man that could represent the province at home; and that from private letters received by himself, he had no doubt whatever that the capital could be procured in London, on the credit of Nova Scotia on as favorable terms without as it could be had with the guarantee from the Imperial Government. We give the information as we have received it, and have no doubt whatever that on Mr Cunard's arrival in England he will prove a powerful auxiliary to the Hon. Provincial Delegate."

The London Chronicle of the 8th January, contains the following article on the subject. It is gratifying to witness the lively in-

terest which a number of the leading Journals of England have of late taken in the affairs of the British North American Colonies:—

"Great anxiety is shown in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as to the success of Mr Howe in obtaining assistance in England for the carrying out the proposed European North American Railway; the feeling in its favor seems very general, and local co-operation will evidently not be wanted. The importance of this enterprise to our North American Colonies cannot be over estimated. The value of their mineral and agricultural resources is not sufficiently known; and it is only by such facilities for communication as are afforded by railways that they can be fully and sufficiently developed. With the St. Lawrence closed during a portion of the year, the produce of Canada is forced to find a market in the United States, enriching that country by the duties and cost of transport, and depriving the producer of much of that profit which he would realise if he had direct communication with the home market through Nova Scotia. Our North American provinces have, therefore, all a direct interest in this undertaking, and their claims should be pressed upon the Colonial office, as affecting the future general prosperity of the whole.

THE ATLANTIC STEAMER.—This steamer has been out 30 days, and still there is no tidings of her. She has on board 30 passengers, which together with her officers, number one hundred souls. Nearly the whole of them, it is reported, have families. The Novascotia Revenue Cutter Daring, Captain Darby, left Halifax for Sable Island, and received instructions to proceed in search of the missing steamer. This act reflects credit on the Government of Novascotia.

THE MORNING NEWS.—The Editor of this Journal in commenting on our Editorial respecting Mr Street's appointment, and his prospects of success in this County, remarks:

"If we did not know the Gleaner so well, we should begin to think it was striking to the enemy. The insertion of so Tory a document as that signed *Vindex*, written in Fredericton, in the last issue, takes us by surprise. No liberal paper at this turning point in our affairs, should promulgate doctrines calculated to strengthen the hands of the 'old school.' We oppose Mr Street on principles altogether, and hope the people of the north will do the same, irrespective of the man. Surely they will bring forward some well known Liberal to contest the seat?"

We tell friend Fenety, that his remarks respecting the publication of the communication of "Vindex" has taken us by surprise. As we publish the only paper in this quarter, we conceive that we would not be acting fairly or liberally, if we closed our paper to one party and threw it open to another. Fair play is our motto. We have no fear that the cause of *Progress and Reform* will receive a check, or be damaged by any article which the opposing party may pen or publish. We still continue to adhere to our compact, that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents, notwithstanding the verdict of a jury to the contrary.—What does the proceedings of meetings which have been held in different parishes of the County—the Presentments of the Grand Juries in 1850 and 1851—and the constant struggle of a large majority of the people to overcome the present system of Government, and to acquire the sole controul of their own public affairs—portend? They are too plain to need any illustration. Campbell truthfully says: "Coming events cast their shadows before."

MEETING OF THE BAR.—A large meeting of the members of the Bar was held at Saint John on the 21st ult., and the Hon. Attorney General, J. A. Street, occupied the Chair. A Resolution was unanimously passed, that an Address should be presented to the late Chief Justice Chipman, to express their feelings on his retiring from office, and their high estimation of his valuable services during his judicial career."

RICH, IF TRUE.—The Editor of the Carleton Sentinel says:—

"If we are to believe all we hear, they sometimes do queer things at Head Quarters. We heard yesterday that the Grand Jury for the County of York, had indicted the Court of Sessions and the Common Council, as public nuisances. Who is to issue the Warrants for their apprehension? It must be the foreman of the Grand Jury!"

CANADA.—It is reported that the Legislature of this Province will meet at the latter end of February.

The following paragraph appears in the Report of the Directors of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Company, to the share-

holders, at their annual meeting, held on the 15th January:—

"In the course of the past season the Directors have observed with sincere pleasure the active and energetic proceedings which have been had with reference to the project of a Railway between Portland, Maine, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The European and North American Railway they see every reason to consider as one promising the most certain advantages to the British Provinces in general. But it is to the city of Montreal, and to this company in particular, that the easterly extension of the line of which their Road forms so large a portion, must be beneficial; and even if the idea had not been originally expressed by themselves in a report made on a former occasion, under similar circumstances to the present, the Directors would have felt entitled to congratulate the Shareholders of this company on the prospect which is now apparent, of an early and spirited movement towards the practical commencement of this important work."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders of the town of Newcastle, held in the Parish School House this evening, pursuant to notice, for the purpose of enabling John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., one of our Representatives, at the request of many of his constituents, to meet them before his departure for Fredericton, and give an expression of his views to, and to gain information and expression of opinion from, his constituents in this town, on certain questions now before the public. Wm. SALTER, Esq. having been unanimously called to the Chair, and Peter Mitchell, jun., Esq., requested to act as Secretary, the Chairman having stated the objects of the meeting called upon Mr Johnson, who expressed his views on the various questions which, in his opinion required the action of the Government. Several other gentlemen also addressed the meeting, and brought under its notice many questions of interest intimately connected with our Provincial prosperity, and severally proposed the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the meeting:

Resolved, As the opinion of this Meeting, That the present composition of our Magisterial body has excited great discontent throughout the County: and further Resolved, that our Representatives should urge upon the attention of the Executive Government the necessity there exists for re-modelling that Body, and that it is the opinion of this Meeting that were the power of appointing or nominating our Magistrates vested in the people, a much more intelligent and efficient body of men would be selected than now exist.

Resolved, That this Meeting view the present system of Education as inefficient, and not such as meets the wants of the community; and consider that the Grant to King's College is not compensated by any benefits which the mass of the people derive from such Institution: and, further Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that a system of Free Schools should be introduced by Government, which would afford to the poor a facility for education which they do not now enjoy.

Resolved, That the Portland and Halifax railway through this Province should be encouraged, as a step in the road of advancement, and that the same means which have advanced the neighboring States would, if applied, greatly tend to promote our prosperity as a People, and that Railroads, Telegraphs, Steam Boats, and other means of transport and intelligence are among the first requisites to our improvement.

Resolved, That this meeting deem it necessary that the inhabitants of the respective Counties in the Province should have the management of their own affairs, instead of those affairs being mismanaged by persons, many of whom have neither feelings or interests in common with the inhabitants: and further resolved that Municipal Corporations should be introduced as soon as practicable.

Whereas in the recent charge to the Grand Inquest of this County, delivered from the Bench, certain persons who contended for the right to use the court house for the purposes of the Parish Meeting were referred to, and the Jury were cautioned against them as agitators, therefore

Resolved, That this Meeting do not agree with the Bench in denouncing those persons as agitators who contended for that right, but condemn the conduct of those Justices as highly culpable who opposed the Court House being used by the People for the purpose aforesaid.

Resolved, That this meeting highly approve of the course pursued by the Grand Jury of this County at their recent meeting, and admire the stand taken by that body in contending for the exercise of their rights, and in resisting every attempt to curtail their privileges.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Gleaner, and St. John's Morning News, signed by the Chairman and Secretary.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., for the course pursued by him as one of our Representatives, and the interest evinced by him in promoting the cause of Constitutional Reform.

W. SALTER, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the Chair, and Mr Daniel Wetherall having been called