

the construction of the Halifax and Quebec line. So the session of 1850 closed with no complaint by the constituency of Northumberland against their members for their conduct on the Railway schemes, and during the sitting of the Circuit Court, Mr Street was complimented by an Address from the Grand Jury, on his elevation in the councils of the country.

Meetings were held in the Counties bordering on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during the month of June, disapproving of the hasty manner in which the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to aid in the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway, had been rejected by the House of Assembly.

The Toronto Convention next followed, and during the summer new hopes were entertained that the Trunk Line to Quebec would be built, but the most sanguine on this side of the Province never imagined funds would be provided by the Legislature which did not embrace the European and North American line. Canada had passed a law to obtain a loan, and construct her portion of the line. Nova Scotia had likewise passed similar laws, and to build into this Province, with a proviso that New Brunswick should build the European and North American line to Calais.

Matters were in this state when the Legislature was summoned to meet for the despatch of business. During the first week of the Session, a Despatch from Earl Grey, refusing aid to the European and North American line, to the United States, came to this Province, and the prospect of a Railroad through this Province to Quebec appeared as far off as ever, there not being the least probability of the Legislature agreeing to any line of Railway which did not embrace the European and North American line. In this state of affairs the Delegates from Canada arrived in Fredericton, and a meeting was arranged to take place at Halifax, Mr Chandler attending on behalf of this Province. The negotiations which took place are before the public, and I will only call the attention of your readers to the final proposition of the Canadian delegates:

"That the Quebec Railway be located on a line traversing the country watered by the tributaries of the St. John, to the City of St. John, and from thence to the frontiers of Nova Scotia."

Such was the final proposition of Canada. The North line would not be entertained by them—a manifest feeling of the majority of the Assembly opposed to the North line—what course was left to the Government of this Province to pursue? Were they to take a stand, and oppose all efforts to obtain a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec, simply because the line would not go through the Eastern Counties? It should be hoped that such local prejudices and feelings would never pervade the councils of this Province. Mr Street is a member of the Executive Government, and supposing he had carried all his colleagues and the Assembly in favor of the Northern route, would it have availed anything unless Canada also came into the scheme? Most assuredly not. Was Mr Street, then, to surrender his seat in the Government, and oppose a Railroad through the Province? I should imagine he was not required to do so. He might be desirous of a Railroad through the Province to Quebec, and that it should pass through the Eastern Counties, but seeing no hope of that being accomplished, his duty to the Province was paramount to local prejudices, and he was called upon by that duty to promote the welfare of these British Possessions, by using his best exertions to obtain a Railroad which tends to cement British interests on this Continent.

The course which Mr Street pursued will, I apprehend, be approved of by every unprejudiced mind. He has acted above local prejudices in carrying a measure for a public work, which, if successful, cannot fail of producing benefits incalculable to this Province. Let us, Mr Editor, if we cannot get the Railroad to Quebec past our own doors, not refuse to lend our aid to have it through the Province in another direction. To endeavor to prevent a Railway passing up the St. John, because we cannot have it on the North line, is something like the fable of the dog in the manger. I should hope that upon reflection, those who have signed the requisition, will see that they have been hasty in condemning Mr Street, and give him credit for acting from a conviction of faithfully discharging his duty for the best interests of the Province.

In the discharge of his duty as a representative in the councils of the country, neither local purposes nor local prejudices ought to guide him, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole. Although elected by the constituency of Northumberland, he is a member of the Provincial assembly, and the interests of the Province must be compared and

reconciled if possible; and although his inclinations may be to meet the views of his constituents, yet his paramount duty is to be governed by reason and judgment, for the welfare of the Province.

FAIR PLAY.

Kent County, March 13, 1852.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

SIR,—I fancy there are but few, if any of your readers who require to be told, that about a month ago some 120 of the Honorable John A. Street's staunchest and most influential supporters in this place, actuated by feelings of indignation at his late conduct, with reference to the adopted Railway route, addressed a short, but spicy epistle to the Honorable gentleman, requesting him to resign forthwith, the trust they had reposed in him, as one of their Representatives! To this Requisition Mr Street has since replied; and it now remains with the constituency of this County to decide, whether that reply goes to justify the course that Honorable gentleman has pursued, or whether it does not; and to act accordingly.

The motive by which Mr Street's late friends were induced to "demand his resignation," was, really not so much the expectation that he would comply with such a request, for this no man who knew anything of the Honorable gentleman could have imagined; but it was with the view of exposing the more effectually his late conduct, and at the same time shewing him, that though long and sadly gulled, their day of reckoning was at hand. The Honorable gentleman, however, is quite huffed, because forsooth, the requisition from his insulted friends, was not couched in more courteous language!! "I must," says he, "in the first place, thank you for the very courteous language in which this peremptory demand is couched." But let us see what claim the Honorable gentleman had to "courtesy" or kindness from these requisitionists. Would a man, who was in the act of snapping his fingers in the face of his enemy, be blamed, because he failed to hold out to that enemy the hand of courtesy, or would he not rather be viewed as a contemptible Hypocrite had he done so? Certainly! Then what claim could Mr Street have had, upon the courtesy of men, once it is true, his best friends, but now his bitterest political enemies.

Few men have talked more about duty—principle—honor, and so forth, than the Honorable John A. Street! Never has he appeared before the public without pronouncing some fulsome eulogy to the praise and glory of his own character. Yet fewer men have managed, Chameleon like, to twist themselves into so many shades and shapes to suit their purposes, as the same Honorable Gentleman. "I stated to you," says he, "in the most unequivocal language at my election in July 1850, that the principles upon which I offered myself as a candidate for your suffrages were, that although in all matters of a local nature, I shall be governed by the opinions of my constituents as far as I could ascertain them, yet, in matters of a Provincial character, I should ever hold the right of exercising my own judgment, even in opposition to the local feelings of my constituents," and then he adds, "I would ask if the Railway question is not a subject in every sense of the word of a great public, provincial, and I might add, national character; that it is so no one can deny, then I would ask, in what way have I forfeited your confidence or betrayed your trust?"

Upon the reply then, to the simple enquiry was a Representative of this County, in duty bound to vote for the Eastern Line of Railway, or was he not, has this Honorable gentleman, staked his standing as a statesman, and his reputation, as a man of honor, and honesty! Now let us suppose for a moment, that the Railway route was not a local, but a provincial or national question; and let us suppose that it was distinctly understood between Mr Street and the constituency of this County (which it was not) that on all Provincial questions he should be at liberty to act as he pleased, would this have been ground, on which an honorable, honest man, would choose to defend himself from the charge of having sacrificed the interests of his constituency, for the paltry consideration of a few pounds per annum? Or in other words, would this have been ground on which an honorable, honest man, and he Her Majesty's Attorney General, would have dared in defiance of the dictates of his own conscience, the claims of common sense, and the wish of the constituency, to turn suddenly round, and advocate the adoption of a route, which if sanctioned by the British Government, must prove alike subversive of the views contemplated by that Government when it consented to furnish the millions necessary to construct it, destructive to British principles and interests in this Province, and ruinous to this section of New Brunswick? Never! Sooner than have

thus acted, an honest man would have begged his bread from door to door.

But I deny that the Railway route was a Provincial, without being a local question. In what light did the other members from this County view this question? In what light did every member from this side of the Province view it, not even excepting those who had been accustomed to vote with the Government? Why, they all viewed it as a great Provincial as well as local question. But what had that to do with answering the question, "Is it our duty to vote for the Southern line?" To some of these trustworthy but poor men, the prospect of securing £100 per annum, might have been about as great a temptation to treachery, as £600 to a man whose practice as a Barrister could not fail to realize a full competency for himself and family. But did these men yield to such a temptation, or betray their trust for such a consideration? No! They all acted the part of honest men. They believed that the Southern route was an annexation catch-penny, St. John-party route, and therefore they voted against it. They defiled not their garments, as did the Attorney General, and verily they shall have their reward, and so shall he.

Mr Street asserts that he explained at the election of 1850, and other elections, his opinions with reference to Provincial and local questions, &c. Let us see if this be the assertion of an honorable, honest man. Is it true? I have shown that if it were true, it would amount to nothing. But it is not true. Mark the wide difference there is between a candidate at his election propounding principles by which he was to be decided, and a member propounding principles after his election was over. Mark, I say, the difference between a candidate propounding such high-flown doctrines, while yet engaged in shaking hands with all hands and the cook; while yet employed with smiling phiz, and sweetest accents, humbly soliciting votes from his constituency; and a member propounding such dictatorial dogmas after the Poll is closed, the votes all recorded, and he declared duly elected. But suppose Mr Street at his election had said to the Freeholders of this County in words what he has said in actions, "Gentleman, as an honorable, honest man, having your interests at heart, I feel in duty bound to tell you candidly that should the Northern line of Railway (or your interests, I mean) and my Attorney Generalship (£600 per annum) ever happen to come into collision, I shall feel myself at perfect liberty, rather than loose the latter, to Burke the former, upon the ground that the Railway route will be a Provincial and not a local question," how many of the Freeholders of this County would have voted for him? How many? Why, not one! This Mr Street well knew when returned last year by a show of hands—not heads or hearts; and so, like an honorable, honest gentleman, he said not a word about the subject.

Mr Street next asserts that—"had I acted otherwise I might, it is true, have given some temporary embarrassment to the Government, but could not have frustrated the arrangement or effected a change in the route." Did he try? I say he did not; and more than that I assert that had the Honorable Mr Rankin been summoned from England when the startling despatch from Earl Grey was received and the danger to this route first appeared. Had he and the Leader of the Government, together with others whom their influence would no doubt have swayed, made a manly stand declaring their unalterable determination to resign office rather than ruin their reputations, or act otherwise than honorable, honest men; would a majority of their opponents at the Council Board have risked the alternative of maintaining "confidence" in the Assembly and hazard another Election rather than yield their assent to a route already pronounced by themselves—by Nova Scotia and Canada, the best and most desirable? I say they would not!—But perhaps by way of crowning his honorable conduct, Mr Street will next assert that he was ignorant of all the underplot negotiations that have been going on, between the Government of this Province and certain interested, fit-for-any-thing Canadian members, about the improved Portland or anti-British routes. If friendly to the northern route all the while as he pretended, will he explain how it happened, that he kept this County in such ignorance of its position and prospects with regard to the Railway question; why he never consulted his constituents on the subject; and why he did not use means to induce Mr Rankin to forsake all personal considerations, and hasten to his assistance. "I have only to add," says our honorable Representative, "that had I forfeited any pledge, &c., I should not hesitate a moment to comply with your request, though it comes from so small a portion of the constituency of the County." Having shown, I think, pretty clearly, that Mr

Street has forfeited for ever the confidence of those 120 friends who signed the requisition, requiring him to resign the trust they reposed in him, I shall only add, that if this Honorable Gentleman will only have patience, he will have no occasion to complain long, "that so small a portion of his constituency had addressed him;" for measures are at this moment in operation, by which it is believed that instead of 120 friends, he will be waited on and unceremoniously pressed to "walk out," by more than nine-tenths of a constituency whose interests he proudly boasts of having represented for nearly 20 years.

AN ANTI-HUMBUG.
Miramichi, April 2, 1852.

SUNDAY'S MAIL.

CANADA.

A rumour was prevalent at Quebec at the latest dates from that city, that the Governor General had tendered his resignation, and that he was expected soon to leave for England. The Quebec papers deny the truth of the rumour.

NOVA SCOTIA.

A soldier, on sentry at the Barrack (Hotel) on Saturday evening, deserted his post, taking with him his musket and eight round of ball cartridge. He was pursued and overtaken at Sackville Bridge, when he turned upon his pursuers, and after firing at them twice, without effect, shot himself through the head.—Halifax Sun.

The Assembly of P. E. Island had been, for ten days, the arena of most extraordinary proceedings, growing out of a charge of perjury preferred against the Hon. Mr Whelan, a member of the Government, by E. Palmer, Esq., a leading member of the Opposition. A question of privilege was raised—and after much crimination and re-crimination—the public meanwhile being greatly excited—the Resolution following, entirely exonerating the accused, was passed in Committee, and finally adopted by the House, without a dissenting voice:

"That Edward Palmer, Esq., has failed to substantiate his implied charge of Perjury against the Hon. E. Whelan, a member of this House, as made by him during the debate on the Lawyers' Bill."

By unanimous Resolution, subsequently passed, Mr Palmer was put at the Bar of the House, and retracted his charge against Mr Whelan.

The remains of our late highly respected and deeply lamented Lieut. Governor, Sir John Harvey, were on Saturday afternoon consigned to their last resting place, amid the unfeigned regret of a vast concourse of citizens of this population.

The pageant was imposing; the obsequies of the Soldier are ever so, and most impressive.

Our estimate of the departed, in the character of Ruler and Citizen, alike, is already on record; we would that our feeble pen could do justice to his memory in either view.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

We understand that the Hon. Thomas Baillie, after a residence in this Colony of twenty seven years, is preparing to take his departure for England. Mr Baillie will carry with him the warm regards of a large majority of the people of this Province, and their earnest wishes for his welfare.—Fredericton Loyalist.

New Brunswick,

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY S. S.

[L. S.] To the Sheriff of the County of Northumberland or any Constable within said County. Greeting.

Whereas GEORGE KERR, Administrator of all and singular the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits which were of JOHN MANDERSON, late of Chatham, in the said County, Farmer, deceased, hath represented to me that the Personal Estate of the said deceased is insufficient to pay the debts due by the deceased, and hath prayed that License may issue to authorise him to sell all the Real Estate of said deceased, or so much thereof as shall be necessary for the payment of 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 TUESDAY, the 20th day of April next, at the hour of ELEVEN of the clock in the Forenoon, to show cause why Licence should not be granted to the said Administrator to Sell all or so much of the said Real Estate of the said deceased as may be necessary for paying the said debts.

And you are further required to cite the said Administrator and all and every the Creditors and 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, this Twentieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty two.

W. WILKINSON, Surrogate.

GEORGE KERR, Register of Probates for said County.