

ing: he had been repeatedly urged to come forward by gentlemen whose opinions he respected, and though satisfied that it was the general desire of the people that he should come forward, he had deferred doing so until after the Sheriff had issued his notice, as he did not wish to offer if any one professing Liberal principles, and in whom the people had confidence came forward. This not being the case: finding from Mr. Kerr's friends (with several of whom he conversed) that he had no intention of offering, he came forward, yet he would not have done so had that gentleman been sooner in the field, avowing the principles the Liberals contended for, and provided the people were satisfied with him—and tho' he was willing at any time previously to the publication of his card to have given way, once that was issued, he would contest the matter to the last. He was well aware of the importance of the office for which he was a candidate, and felt that no efforts on his part, however he might strive, could supply the influence of the gentleman whose loss caused the present vacancy: and however he might differ in political opinions, he could not allow the present opportunity to pass, without awarding to that gentleman the tribute of praise which is due to him as a gentleman and a philanthropist.

He felt that in offering himself at the present time, that he was likely to meet with great opposition, and in this he was not disappointed, for he found that almost the whole mercantile influence of the County was arrayed against him: opposed by a gentleman respected in the community, and whose wealth commands great influence, he felt that his present position was one of no ordinary importance; yet it was one that he was proud to occupy, because he believed the Freeholders of the County wished it, and he therefore confidently engaged in the encounter. His principles were well known—they had been repeatedly explained on public occasions, and a reference to his Card would shew the leading measures he advocated. For the last ten years he had been a Liberal, a disciple of the Howe school, and was one of the few who at that time dared to advocate (even at the risk of being called a rebel) the principles of the man who all now "delight to honor." Yet such is the principle of society—change and progression is the order of the day, and while some men anticipate them, others follow, and he was really glad to find that his friend Mr. Kerr had at last expressed his Political opinions—this was the first time he had heard them, though intimate for years. He should have given expression to them before, and at least in his Card, in order that his friends might know what principles he advocated. Yet it seemed strange that if those principles were really entertained, that he should have kept quiet so long upon the subject. We are apt to doubt political professions made upon the hustings, when these principles are adverse to those of a previous lifetime, and in this case they are certainly open to suspicion. This is, however, a matter for you to judge of—he believed that they never would have been advocated had not the necessity of a strong popular opposition forced them out. Almost every candidate for popular honors now-a-days, professed liberalism, but the true criterion by which to judge is to take up their past career, and judge of their political character, not by *hustings professions*, but by actual experience, and he asked them so to judge between Mr. Kerr and himself.

He was a Liberal in heart and spirit—was in favor of Responsible Government to its fullest extent, and in all its departments, and merely desired to see such power in the hands of the Executive, as would enable them to act effectually, and such a check as would enable us to place the odium of a bad act somewhere. He desired to see the Schools of our County improved, but he feared that the present Bill would not effect that object, and he was decidedly opposed to the appointment of County School Inspectors being made beyond that class of the community—Teachers, provided a suitable person can be found therein; the office to them should be held up as the reward of merit, and it would be a suitable manner of rewarding that class, and this principle he wished to see carried into all departments. Mr. Kerr tells you that he is in favor of Elective Councils and Vote by Ballot, and a host of other Liberal measures, and he was indeed glad that it was so, yet is it not a little singular that no one ever knew it before. Many of his friends who canvassed for him could not even tell you what his Political Principles were, therefore, whatever the result of this Election may be, his expressed opinions were, in his opinion, the result of necessity, not of conviction. The expenses of the County, and the salaries of officers, he had so often explained that it was quite unnecessary to go into detail. His principles on this point were well known, he was in favor of giving a fair remuneration for services but would not pay anything for *Dignity*. He (Mr. M.) felt desirous of seeing all the offices of our

Country open to the fair and honorable competition of our citizens, from the Governor to the Hodge, and wished to see all classes and professions eligible to fill them, from the son of the Peasant to the son of the Peer. Such had not been the case, but he trusted that the people would soon possess another privilege besides that of paying them. Our Lumbering interests had been neglected and was languishing, yet Government seems to think it is not sufficiently taxed, and during the present season the mileage has been doubled; this with the Revenue upon the articles which they require, and the export duty upon their Timber, make three distinct classes of Taxation upon that department of Industry. Our Agriculturists are not much better off than the former branch, and the Fishermen of our County are not making fortunes. You have had these objections fully stated to-day, by Mr. Kerr, and the chief remedy he provides is a proper system of Immigration. In this he differed with that Gentleman, for he believed if a thousand Emigrants landed on our shores to-morrow, all that could go would pass to the United States and Canada, because they could not find a permanent employment and get cash for their labor here. His opinion was that the remedy lies in first finding a market for the productions of our country, by opening up an outlet in the States for our timber, ships, beef, vegetables, fish and other productions; this would give employment in the Province for their production, and while all classes in the Country would be benefited. Population of itself would flow in, and Cash payments would be the result of a great demand in our extended market. We are told that we cannot get the advantages of this trade, except by the Act of the Imperial Government; but will that government make the effort unless it is strenuously urged upon them? He believed not. It was the duty of the representatives to urge its importance in the most decided manner, upon the attention of that government, and to endeavour to promote amongst the American people a knowledge of the mutual advantages which both countries would receive from its adoption. A paper has been started in Boston for the purpose of advocating that system, and he believed a growing party exists in the States favorable to it. Why then should we not have it? only because the people are not alive to its advantages, or because our Representatives are fearful to offend. You should send men "*who know your rights, and knowing, dare maintain them*," and who would submit to no improper dictation from whencesoever it might come; whether from the ignorance of Downing Street Officials, or the improper assumption of superiority either of a neighbouring Colony or Foreign State.

He now approached the subject of the Railway, and on this topic he felt that the inhabitants of this County have just cause of complaint against the Executive. With the facts which led to the abandonment of the Northern line, and the failure of the negotiations for the valley route, you are all perfectly familiar, and the matter now stands nearly where it did twelve months ago, with these exceptions, that it has cost us a great deal more money without any benefit, and that repeated disappointments and hope deferred, have soured the minds of the people on the subject. Had the Toronto arrangement been carried out, we would now have had the work in operation; and its failure he attributed solely to the selfish policy of our Government, and the absence of political honesty in the Representatives. On the former point he was glad to find that Mr. Kerr had changed his opinion since the Railway meeting. Even yet, he did not despair of our Northern line, and it seems the British Government will give aid to no other. Now, in making choice of a Representative you should select that one who pledges himself to oppose the Government that has marred your prospects, and who will support no Government who allows selfish local interests to interfere with such a great scheme of national importance.

He now came to the objection that had been urged against him—his Youth. He appealed to their good sense to meet such an objection as it deserved. In your private affairs would you measure a man's capacity for business more by his age than his abilities; or might you not rather fear that the timidity and excessive caution of age will but poorly supply the place of the energy and honorable ambition which youth generally possesses; and when you consider that up to the present time Mr. Kerr has never appeared in the political arena, tho' well qualified to do so, while he had, it may well be doubted whether his *age* is not a greater objection than his *youth*; and while the objection to the former will increase those to the latter will daily be removed. Men who are the brightest ornaments of history, entered public life at ages much younger than his; and in that country with which we boast connexion, the talent for

energy of youth have never been an objection to their advancement. Judge of the Candidates before you on their respective merits and their capacity for the office, irrespective of prejudices or improper influences, and should they prefer his opponent, he would willingly submit.

He would now answer the questions that had been put to him by a gentleman in the meeting. He was not in favor of the measure said to be adopted by Government for carrying out the Railway from St. John to Calais, upon the ground that it is burdening our resources to too great an extent, for a line of which the advantages are not very general to the Province at large, and because it may interfere, by anticipating our resources with a line of more general benefit; but this was the only ground of objection that struck him at the moment. He wished it, however, to be understood, that he was not opposed to that line, on the contrary, he would give that and any other feasible line, reasonable encouragement from the Provincial resources. Then as to the next question, he would answer, that he was neither an *annexationist* nor a *republican*. He entertained for our royal Queen those feelings which are due to a Sovereign from a subject, but at the same time he entertained a feeling of loyalty to the Country of his Birth; and while he revered the position and respected the sovereignty of the one, he should ever defend the constitution and uphold the rights of the other.

In conclusion—he sought for support in this contest from the Operatives of the County. He had solicited aid from no wealthy man, and should he be returned, (which he confidently anticipated) while he endeavored to do justice to all, the interest of that class who returned him, should receive his particular attention.

J. M. JOHNSON, Jr. Esq. having been called on from the crowd spoke in substance as follows:

He was ever ready to express his views openly on any public question and should cheerfully do so now. He agreed with all that had fallen from the Candidates in reference to the necessity for more attention to the means of local advancement on the question of the roads, schools, lumbering, agriculture, and the fisheries, and with much that had been said as to the mode of advancing these interests. On the question of timber licences he had expressed his opinion in the House last Session, and that opinion was exactly what had fallen from Mr. Kerr and Mr. Mitchell. Upon these questions all parties agreed, and there was no room for discussion. Mr. Kerr had said that the last Session had been as lavish and extravagant as any former one. This he (Mr. J.) admitted, and he would go further and say as he had in the House, that it was worse; but he did not hold himself accountable for the acts of a majority, against whom he had strenuously fought. On reference to the Journals it would be seen that he had opposed this extravagance.

The only political sin that had been laid to his charge was that of making long speeches. He had certainly spoken frequently and at length, because he felt it necessary to do so. But he had not spoken longer or more than others. He had sought to perform his duty and to adhere to those political views which he had plainly and unequivocally stated on the Hustings, and upon the strength of which he had been elected, and if the opinion of the Liberal Press, and the cordial reception he had met from the leading Liberals of the County, on his return last spring, required any ratification, that was at hand. The Government Press—the Loyalist abuse—would sufficiently furnish this proof, and he believed that that contemptible print, by attacking him, while it was abusing the whole constituency, for exercising a plain political duty, had done him (Mr. J.) good service. If, however, the freeholders were not satisfied with his conduct they had only to say so. He admitted their right to change their opinions, and when they did so they should also change their representative. They were to be the judges, and, as far as he was concerned, they had but to call upon him to resign, and the seat was ready for them. He had not bought and would not sell it. It was freely given and should be as freely returned. He made these remarks because he believed some of his supporters had thought that he should not interfere in the election. But while, as a representative, he was the servant of the public, as a freeholder he was not a slave. He would not contaminate the air of a free country by breathing slavery in it. He had no right to say to the constituency whom they should or should not send; and had the candidates been both liberals he would have remained silent and inactive, but when he thought otherwise he conceived it his duty to take the front of the battle, and adhere to that party who had placed him at their head in the County. He was prepared for all

consequences which could follow a performance of duty; and had his own father come forward, and his card been no more explicit than that of Mr. Kerr, he would have canvassed the County against him.

Mr. Kerr had certainly gone much further in his speech than he (Mr. J.) had expected, but he had not satisfied him that he was a liberal. Mr. Kerr had been upwards of twenty years in Chatham, and no person had ever heard his political opinions in public. He was now supported by all the old Tory party and by some of the Liberals. He could not please both. Some of his canvassers had said if they thought him a Liberal they would not support him, others that if a Tory they would oppose him, and yet all these were endeavoring to secure his return. Some had gone so far as to say that no person should be returned who would not support the Attorney General and present Government. Had Mr. Kerr come boldly out as a Liberal in his card, would the old party work for him as they had done, or would they not have said—there are two Liberals in the field, let them split the interest, and we will shove in a Tory between them.

He freely admitted that did Mr. Kerr pledge himself to support the Liberals, there was no man in the county with whom he would work more cheerfully. But if he should be returned, and support the present Government, then the persons who had returned him (Mr. J.) would be considered to have changed their minds; and if such were the case, and they approved of Mr. Kerr's course, they ought to call upon him (Mr. J.) to resign his seat.

He had fondly hoped that a Liberal and a Tory would be brought forward at this Election, and a fair trial of strength had, but this Election could not decide the question, because while Mr. Mitchell had plainly declared he wanted no Tory to vote for him, and would consider him a Liberal if he did so, Mr. Kerr, on the other hand, had all the Tories, and claimed to be supported as a Liberal also. This would not be so much a political struggle as one of principle against power—the furrow against the counter—all the wealth was on the one side and the votes would not furnish a fair index of the feeling. It would, however, be a glorious struggle, and if by this effort the shackles were not shaken off the rivets might at least be started, and by the next effort the country would be free. There had been a time when every thing used by the country had to pass through the towns nothing but timber and fish was produced among us, the towns supported and consequently ruled the country. That day had gone by—the country now produced for the towns; it was upon the country which God made and not upon the towns the work of man's hands that we must depend; let the country then reclaim its rights and as it supported so let it rule; let the people make a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, they might better their position and could not make it worse; let every man vote according to his judgement regardless of all other influences.

He (Mr. J.) agreed with Mr. Kerr's views so far as they went, but they did not go far enough, and his speech might be compared to a school-boy's slate, a pencil at one end of the string and a sponge at the other, as he wrote so he rubbed out. He (Mr. Kerr) thought Municipal Corporations might work, but it was a matter of experiment. They were said to work well in Canada but had run St. John into debt: he was in favor of placing salaries upon a proper footing but referred only to that of the Governor, and that was upon the Civil List, which was a sacred thing. He (Mr. J.) viewed the matter differently, the Government of Canada had not dared to pay the Civil List without the vote of the Assembly, and had we a firm Government or independent Assembly, the Colonial Secretary must yield the point or he could not farm a Colonial administration. Vote by Ballot was the only question upon which Mr. Kerr had been decided or explicit, and that was certainly an important point. He did not think with Mr. Kerr that we should wait for Canada or Nova Scotia in carrying out Responsible Government, we were far behind them now, and had just as much right to lead as they: the system was good or bad, and this could not be proved by piecemeal, we should try the whole machinery and not part only; a representative should study to lead and not merely to follow—public opinion—what might have been a fit Constitution or Government at one time, might be too contracted or arbitrary at another; the clothes which fitted any one of them in the cradle would ill suit their present stature. The political body had grown in political experience, and thus enlarged, required a greater freedom and more liberal institutions. The Tory party wished to retain things as they were without regard to progress or advancement, let them suppose an infant cased in an iron