

The Politician.

THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From the Fredericton Reporter.

DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE AND RESIGNATION OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The event of the week has been the rupture between the Executive Council and the Governor, and the resignation of the former.—The difficulty arose on the question of the dissolution of the House. Several petitions comprising a very limited number of names praying for a dissolution on account of the Prohibitory Law were sent in. This is the alleged excuse for the dissolution. The Council very properly refused to advise such an extreme course for several reasons. In the first place the petitions were from a mere fraction of the provincial constituency. Had anything like a majority petitioned, the case would have been different. But even then the Council would have been compelled to wait for the new Election Law. The Executive were bound by principle to refuse to advise the dissolution.—The new Election Law, comes into operation the first of January next. A dissolution now, advised by the same men who passed that law, would show a determination to evade it for another four years. In addition to this reason the House of Assembly themselves by a large majority, decided against a dissolution only a few weeks ago. In the face of these and other circumstances, the Council had advised a dissolution, they would have acted inconsistently. There are other strong reasons also, out of the state of the Province, why at the present time the expense and excitement of a second Election should if possible be avoided.

This is the first time since the establishment of Responsible Government, that any of the North American Governors have ventured upon so high handed an exercise of the prerogative. That he has the power to do it no one questions but that he ought to advise with the Council is equally correct. His Executive had the confidence of the House of Assembly, and had been well sustained by that body down to the close of the last Session; he treats them as mere puppets and takes the whole power into his own hands! This is a new idea in constitutional Government. Many years ago Sir Francis Bond Head did the same thing in Canada—the rebellion of 1837 was the consequence; for a time he succeeded, but ultimately he was recalled by the British Government and has never been employed in any foreign service since. Governor Sutton has chosen to follow the same arbitrary course; he has taken the whole government of the country into his own hands, slighting his constitutional advisers and disregarding their advice.

It is a serious crisis in the administration of the Government. The retiring councillors have thrown themselves upon the country. The question to be settled by the electors for all future time is, shall a Governor, sent out "to administer the affairs of the Province according to the well understood wishes of the people as expressed by their representatives," be allowed to override all advice, and on his own personal responsibility, throw the affairs of the Province into confusion? The Prohibitory Law is a question by itself. On that Law the Council themselves were divided—several were violently opposed to it. And when the Governor made that an excuse for committing an outrage upon the rights of the country, they protested against his conduct and left him.

Perhaps His Excellency expects that the people will sustain him at the Elections. We do not believe it. We believe that a House will be returned, a decided majority of whom will resist his despotic administration. There is no question that the retiring Councillors will be sustained if the question is fairly understood. The people of New Brunswick will not tamely bow down to the iron rule of any individual; they are loyal to the Crown, but not to despotism. Multitudes who dislike the Prohibitory law see in this act an invasion of their liberties, which they will feel bound to resist.

It is the second time that Mr Fisher has resigned because the Governor assumed arbitrary power. In 1851 he left the Government because Sir Edmund Head appointed the Chief Justice without advising with his Council.—All the other members remained, they preferred holding on to office rather than to principle; they managed by great exertions to sustain themselves in the Government until a new Election. Then Mr Fisher made this the principle charge against them, and they were turned out. Now he leaves the Government, and all his colleagues with him, they unanimously agreed in asserting the rights of the country; they have not been driven out by the people. They enjoyed public confidence, and were well able to retain it; they met and conquered the most violent and factious opposition which ever assailed a Government in this country. They have now voluntarily given up their power and their offices, because the rights of the people were invaded by an extreme use of the prerogative. We glory in the men. They are great in their present position, more worthy of respect and admiration, than they were when as a Government they proved themselves able to overcome all their enemies. We hope that their constituencies will return them triumphantly. They must and will succeed.

The Governor will rally round him a Council made up of the old party. He will not be able to get a single man in his new Government

who respects constitutional principles. Some who were opposed to the Government last winter, will refuse to commit themselves to a course which will soon destroy their political existence. Let the real honest friends of constitutional Government hold together, and Governor Sutton will be the last Colonial Governor who will ever commit such an outrage.

From the St. John Freeman.

THE DISSOLUTION—WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS AT ISSUE.

The rumours that prevailed for some days have proved true, and the Governor, to the surprise of all parties, has on his own responsibility, and contrary to the advice of his Council, dissolved the Assembly. There is little doubt that the thing occurred this way: The Governor regarding the Prohibitory Law as a great evil, and probably moved by the petitions presented to him, by the late election of Mayor in St. John, the late outrageous proceedings of the tee-totalers; and the like causes, called his council together four days before the time appointed for their meeting, and then plainly told them that in his opinion the good of the country required that the Prohibitory Law should be repealed, and that to obtain its repeal or at least ascertain the public will, the Assembly, which he believed did not represent public opinion on this point, should be dissolved, and the matter be constitutionally submitted to the people. To such a course, the Council were absolutely opposed; the tee-totalers on principle, and because they hold, or pretend to hold that the law is a good one and approved of by the majority of the people;—the other members for expediency sake. A long correspondence it is said took place, (and this we trust will at once be published) and finally neither party yielding, the Governor issued his proclamation and then the Executive in a body tendered their resignation and it was accepted.

These being the facts, it is now of the utmost importance that the people who will shortly have to pronounce judgment, and from whose judgment there is no appeal, should thoroughly understand the case on which they are to give judgment, and know precisely what are the questions at issue. These we believe may be resolved into the following:

Is the Prohibitory Law, in the opinion of the majority, an evil or a good?

If an evil, is it of such magnitude as to warrant the Governor's to exercising the prerogative of dissolving the Assembly and appealing to the people?

It has been asserted that the question is between the Governor and the people. It is really a question between the Governor and the party lately in power; the people are not litigants, but judges to whom the Governor appeals, and by whose decision both parties must abide; for the Governor cannot do an act of this kind idly, and if the people now declare, by their votes at the hustings, that he has acted improperly, there is doubt that he will not long retain his place as Governor. If the late administration be supported, not only must the Governor and the minority of the people be content to see the Prohibitory Law continue in full force for four years more, but the very first parliamentary act of the majority so elected would be to address her Majesty to remove Mr Sutton, and to that address there could be but one reply. The News tells us that the unalterable determination of the members of the late Government is that not one of them will again take office with the present Government, and in this they are unquestionably right. The Governor then, it may be fairly presumed, is at all events honest and in earnest when he stakes so much on the result, and believes he but does what is right and what the people wish him to do. The people have now to say whether his conduct meets their approval.

Tee-totalers can but take one view of this question. In their opinion the Prohibitory Law is good and salutary, and no circumstance neither public excitement, the prevalence of discord, animosities, &c., the increase of drunkenness, the growth of perjury and corruption the infringement of general and individual liberty, or the bankruptcy of the Treasury would warrant its repeal; therefore the Governor has acted arbitrarily, tyrannically, &c.

But those who regard the Law as wrong in principle, injurious in its effects, and in every way an enormous and intolerable evil, are now called upon to say whether they shall willingly consent to the continuation and aggravation of this evil; or whether the Governor, in affording them an opportunity of getting rid of it, has done wrong because the existing state of things does not warrant this exercise of the prerogative.

In judging of the Governor's conduct, we have to consider whether indeed a Governor in this Province is to be a man who, as we are told, should merely pocket his salary and keep the Colonial Secretary 'posted up' as to what we all say and do; who 'has no right,' even 'to know the workings of any law,' and who, because he is a stranger, but a short time in the country, should not presume to exercise the prerogative, which in theory is his; or whether, having been appointed to such a situation, he has not duties and obligations as well as other men, and should not do that which he believes to be right, subject to the approval of the people. Is it tyranny to ask constitutionally the opinion of the people? Is it levity to risk office and salary, in the performance of a duty? Even the Morning News that attempted but a few weeks ago, to prove that a Governor has no right to dissolve contrary to the wishes of his council, now admits that the Governor's act is Constitutional though

unusual, and the Courier "grants that an extreme might occur in which the Governor would be justifiable in using his prerogative.

One question to be settled now, is whether such a case exists at present; whether the Prohibitory Law is an evil of such magnitude as to render it the duty of the Governor to act as he has done in view of all the consequences.—It is not as the 'Courier' would have us believe, 'whether a Governor can trifle with the advice of his Council,' or 'whether the people through their Representatives shall rule, or a back stairs influence shall controul the administration of the Government;' 'whether the Governor shall rule with the advice of his Council or be compelled to take it;' nor is there any principle of self-government involved, for the Governor merely comes into court in this case as even bondsmen have a right to do, and asks the people themselves to pronounce judgment; to that decision all parties must submit, and no defeat attends inevitably loss of office for either party.

We have endeavoured to give what we conceive is the fair view of the whole case. We confess that there is much to cause embarrassment and perplexity, and that whatever the result, there will be much for all true liberals to regret, unless, indeed, the result be very different from anything that can reasonably be expected.

In view of such a question as the Prohibitory Law, the mere fate of parties is of comparatively trivial importance. We shall, however, on Tuesday, explain the present position of parties as we understand it, merely remarking now that our whole representative system is not a high delusion and mockery, it is the people and not the Governor who are to choose what party shall hold the reins?

From the New Brunswicker.

A NEW ADMINISTRATION.

From all parts of the Province we hear of rejoicings at the inglorious termination of the Fisher administration. We doubt if there ever was a government which stood so low in the estimation of the people of New Brunswick as that which has just ceased to exist; and now that the rickety affair has come to an untimely end, the public breathe more freely, as if relieved from an incubus which seemed to weigh down and depress every interest in the Province.

We stated in our last, that the Hon. Mr Chandler had passed through this City on his way to Fredericton, and it was surmised that his journey was connected with the formation of a new administration. We are enabled to state, that upon his arrival in Fredericton on Saturday, Mr Chandler received his Excellency's commands to undertake the formation of a new Government, and entered upon this important duty at once. If we are correctly informed, Mr Chandler has had no difficulty whatever in making up a Council which will work well together, and undoubtedly prove acceptable to the Province. It is quite possible that a quorum of Councillors, including some of the principal officers of Government, will be sworn in at Fredericton to-day, and enter at once upon the laborious task of endeavouring to raise the Province from its present state of prostration. The "Fisher government" took office with a sum approaching closely to £40,000 at the credit of the Provincial Treasurer in the Bank of New Brunswick, and the public credit unimpeachable. They quit office at the end of eighteen months only, leaving the Province without either money or credit, deeply indebted to several Banks, and to every body else from whom money could be obtained. The new Government will incur the heavy task of undertaking the management of the business of the country, not merely without money, but absolutely without public credit, which the Fisher government, by its mismanagement and incapacity, has contrived to shatter completely. Whoever may now assume the reins will be well entitled to some forbearance, and the cordial support of all who wish to see public credit restored, and the prosperity of the country advanced.

Of the absurd remarks of certain of our disappointed contemporaries relative to the course pursued by the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Mr Manners Sutton (to whom only the latter half is vouchsafed) we can only say, that it will be time enough to express an opinion when the true state of the case is submitted to the people. Our contemporaries give vent to their spleen on the assumption that the House of Assembly has been dissolved, whereas we learn that such an event has not yet taken place, and all their arguments therefore are perfect *bores*.

The difference of opinion between the Lieut. Governor and his Council, upon which the members thought fit to resign, are reported to have been reduced to writing, and are said to exist in the shape of a correspondence between Mr Manners Sutton and his late advisers. We sincerely hope and trust that this correspondence will be given to the people of New Brunswick at an early day; and if we may judge from the marked ability that characterized every part of His Excellency's admirable despatch to the Colonial Minister relative to the Prohibitory Liquor Law, we may look for something good from his able pen on the present occasion. We take it for granted, that the public will not make up their minds upon the course pursued by his Excellency until they have read this correspondence; and the attempts made to get up public feeling against the Lieut. Governor upon assumptions without foundation, and vituperation without cause, will then be treated with the contempt they deserve.

The great charge against Mr Manners Sutton is, that he has dissolved, or wishes to dissolve,

the House of Assembly in order to submit several grave and weighty questions to the consideration of the electors of New Brunswick in a constitutional manner. A so-called liberal government resists this, and absolutely tries to prevent the people from having any voice in the management of their public affairs, or from having the opportunity of deciding constitutionally upon matters now in progress—these "liberals" try, in fact, to prevent the people from having anything whatever to say respecting questions upon which the future welfare of the country will greatly depend, until it will be too late for their decision to have any effect. We cannot see any grounds whatever for the charges made by certain of our contemporaries against the Lieutenant Governor, when his whole object appears to be to give the people an opportunity of dealing legitimately with their own affairs, which his late advisers were anxious to prevent. Surely they must have felt that there was something wrong in their proceedings, when they were so anxious to prevent a reference to the people. They must be impressed with the belief that their course was likely to be condemned, or there would not have been all this outcry at being compelled to face their several constituencies. Can it be otherwise?

Viewed calmly, we think the public will agree with us, that in desiring to consult the opinions of the people constitutionally on the important questions now agitating their minds, the Lieutenant Governor has done well and wisely, and deserves the gratitude of all who love their country, for the opportunity of deciding thus afforded, but of which the people were sought to be deprived by the 'Great Liberals' of the Fisher government.

The Lieutenant Governor has decided nothing—he but asks that the people shall decide great public questions according to their own wishes and feelings.

AN ARGUMENT! TO BE, OR NOT TO BE.

Happening, a day or two since, to fall in with a sheet of Paragraphs from Professor Holloway designed for publication in this Journal, we were struck with the enormous amount of advertising business done by that gentleman, and the number of persons, in too many different places, who were therein stated to have received benefit from his remedies. It cannot be that statements such as these appearing so frequently, and published in so very many Journals, would be suffered to pass unnoticed if these remedies had not effected the cures ascribed to them; and we therefore must regard them as possessing a curative virtue well worth the trial of the invalid. We are perfectly aware that medicines so largely applauded are generally looked upon as mere quackeries, yet we cannot be blind to the fact that the Professor must realize a large income from the sale of them to maintain such an immense expenditure for printing, which we look upon as a guarantee for their efficiency, more especially as it has been carried on for such a number of years, which could not have been the case if they did not possess, at least, to a very great extent, the healthy and curing properties. Indeed we have no hesitation in saying, that we believe they have effected cures in all climes, and of all diseases. Where a patient is lingering for weeks or months, without receiving the slightest benefit from the physician's skill, merely kept hanging on, as it were, to a painful and joyless existence, which must terminate in a very short time, we really do think that it would be the extreme of folly, or worse, to suffer mere prejudice to prevent him from having recourse to such a remedy as this, which, if it did him no good, could at any rate do him no harm. How many thousands have been prevented from taking a remedy merely from prejudice, and how apt are parties to think that the advertisements inserted in newspaper columns, are not what they profess to be, although in the ease above referred to, at all events we have good reason to believe that the announcements of Professor Holloway merely speak the plain unvarnished tale without any exaggeration or falsehood in them.—Public Ledger, St. John's Newfoundland.

HORSE CŒUR DE LION.

THE Subscriber begs leave to inform the Public that he intends travelling his YOUNG ENTIRE HORSE CŒUR DE LION, (now rising five years old) the ensuing season.—As this Splendid Young Horse is generally known to the Public, he requires no further character. Terms—20s for the Season. If the Mare should not prove with foal, a deduction of 10s. The district of Travel and place of Stoppage, will be made known by the Groom. MICHAEL SEARLE. Chatham, April 24, 1856.

Fashions! Fashions!!

JUST RECEIVED, via New York, and St. John, LONDON AND PARIS FASHIONS. For the Spring and Summer of '56 G. A. BLAIR. Opposite Bowser's Hotel. Chatham, April 12, 1856.

CARD.

DR. NICHOLSON Respectfully informs the Inhabitants of Bathurst and its vicinity, that he intends remaining there, and may be consulted confidentially at the "Jenny Lind Hotel" for the present. N. B. Dr. N's Diploma as Member of the New York University with other Testimonials of high character, may be read by calling on him. Bathurst April 17, 1856.