

must have been expended under the head of ships disbursements by the 4,894 sail which entered the Russian Ports in 1841.

Unfortunately we have no later statistics to refer to, but we think the above figures must satisfy the most sceptical that all Colonel Shaffner's statements are not to be taken for gospel. Half of the mercantile community in the various Russian Ports must be in a state bordering on bankruptcy—how then can they contribute their quota towards the expenses of the War.

If the resources of Russia are as unbounded as Col. Shaffner represents them, how comes it that her last attempt at raising a Foreign loan is a failure, it having been repudiated on most of the Stock Exchanges of Europe although the tempting condition is offered of paying principal and interest in gold at a fixed rate of exchange?

Should Peace be the result of the proposed conference (which we much doubt), a quarter of a century must elapse ere the Muscovite Empire can recover her former commercial, and financial position. *Nous verrons.*

MERCATOR.

#### COUNTY KENT.

Mr. Editor,

As a small off-set to the many evils charged upon the Prohibitory Law, it is but fair to place to its credit the development of a wonderful amount of literary talent. Such a host of scribblers as have been produced within the last few months, would have required the growth of years of ordinary times.

Had the Poet Gray but seen this day, He ne'er had penned that beauteous thought, "Full many a gem of purest ray serene, The dark unfathomable caves of ocean screen."

An individual now-a-days, has only to seat himself at his desk, swallow a glass of the *creatur*, presently he feels the inspiration. He seizes the pen. He becomes an author. Article after article is produced. The press is oppressed.

In proof of this, look at any late number of the Freeman newspaper.

As an additional sign of the times, I send you a copy of one of the handbills posted up here, previously to our late County Meeting.

A SCRIBBLER.

Richibucto, March 3, 1856.

#### MEN OF KENT.

This is a transcendently great and "ever memorable" occasion. Open your eyes and see. Lift up your voices, and proclaim to the world your utter abhorrence of, and indignation at, the men, women, and children, who would deprive us of our dearest rights, and fundamentally overthrow, and radically uproot our "time honoured institutions," and the foundations of society.

What! shall we look idly on, and tamely submit to be deprived of privileges secured to us, not only by long established usages, but also by the blood, misery, and wretchedness of martyred forefathers? Then indeed, and not till then, should we deserve the scorn, contempt, and loathing of all time to come.

Men of Kent, rally round the banner of freedom. Contend manfully for that "Liberty of Conscience" which is your birthright. The cold water club would stop our grog, and gag our throats, and teach our tender offspring to call this Freedom. Be our plain answer this—We don't believe it.

Men of Kent. Look here. As long as we were allowed to prosecute our lawful and time-honoured business unmolested, *hasent* there been seed time and harvest, peace and plenty. But how now?—and the mischief is only just commencing. How is it now? Echo answers where. Look at the deep snows, and the high price of bread. Men of Kent look at these, and then turn round and look to yourselves. Look again at the state of society under the allspice (auspices, we presume), of the present law. From Gretna Green to John O'Groat's house; all, all, is one vast chowder pot of confusion and dismay: and this is *perpendicularly what we foretold*.

But you. O ye Acadian French, born for better days, come to the rescue, or ye're a doomed race, doomed to toil, and turmoil; doomed to taxes and taxation, till your very boot heels are worn off by kicking in vain, and your noses are all ground flat.

Voice! Rum gone. Tobacco going, tea, sugar, pipes, pans and pickle tubs, high, very high up to the clouds, and higher. Poor fellows we pity you. From the foundation of our loving hearts we pity you. In the magnanimity of our expansive souls we pity you.

Women of Kent, we approach you with all the respect due to you sex, and the urbanity we are wont to extend to our patrons, and we beseech you to rise in your majesty; and, armed with broomsticks and dishcloths, with one united and immense effort, and with a blow that will be felt throughout the length and breadth of the land:

"Strike, till the last doomed foe expires,  
Strike, for your altars and your fires,  
Strike, for the green graves of your sires,  
Rum, and your native land."

LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

Richibucto, Feb. 21, 1856.

Mr. Editor—

When I meet with articles like that signed "One of the People," containing so much bitterness against the Sons of Temperance, I think of the story of a very mischievous viper that tried its venom upon a file. "Bite on!" said the file, "do you not see that you only injure your own fangs."

The advocates of Temperance, labouring to procure for their fellow men freedom from intemperance—no sham freedom this—need not resort to misrepresentation to support their principles or to describe the doings of the liquor traffic. The realities of the "trade" is far beyond romance, and bid defiance to any attempt at exaggeration.

It would be a base libel on the anti-prohibitionists to take the production of "One of the People" as the "exponent" of their feelings towards the Sons of Temperance, and it is unfair to charge any community with the act of an individual.

But let us come to the meeting in question. "One of the People" would completely cover poor 44 with the mantle of shame, ornamented with many coarse and vulgar epithets; but let me ask him if he is not ashamed of the way in which a very large number of his side behaved at the meeting?

Was not all the remarks of those that opposed the law heard without interruption, except one call to order? Did not the friends of temperance endure the sophistry of Mr. Weldon and the abuse of Mr. McPhelim without the least show of feeling? But when their turn came what happened? Mr. Bliss was interrupted and insulted in the few remarks he tried to make. I say *few*, for he designedly left the advocacy of the question to those that were to follow. Mr. Law was only partially heard, and the insulting language made use of by one brawny liquor seller, and the squad of his customers that were round him, ought to make you feel ashamed of your supporters. Mr. Smith could not be heard at all, even when he asked for only three minutes. I know you will say two were heard on each side. Well, Mr. Bliss was scarcely heard at all, and it was agreed that those points which were most likely to affect the majority should be left to Mr. Smith, and therefore it was very fortunate that you succeeded in shutting that gentleman's mouth, otherwise some of your wretched fabrications would have been pointed out, and some of your deluded followers would have left you for the side of truth.

And were you not ashamed at the appearance of many who voted with you? There were respectable and worthy men among the Anti-Prohibitionists, and all honor to those who conscientiously take the opposition. But think of the wretched victims of the "trade," those who had been impoverished by the business you seek to uphold, and who were the most zealous of your party! those who have ever done anything for the good of the County? No: but men who are enriching themselves by the ruin of their fellow countrymen. They talk about tyranny and madness, while they are constantly forging claims and creating lunacy for their neighbours, and you employ the ability God has given you, to help them in their work of death. If you are not ashamed of your side, there are others that are, and that say if the thing was to be done again, they would not be found in such company.

And are you not ashamed at the means adopted by your canvassers to get supporters at the meeting and names to the petition for repealing the law? What false reports did they not circulate to sustain their business? That the poor would be ruined, that every article of food would be so high that they must suffer for want of the necessities of life.

If the poor had the money these receive for that which beggars and destroys them, they could well afford to pay taxes and be comfortable. The most oppressive tax gatherers are those very men who pretend to be so careful about the poor, and with a story for every kind of person, they told all those belonging to a certain religious body, that the Sons of Temperance were all Orangemen, who would soon show their true colours. I know that all the opponents of the law are not to blame for these things, but it was by such base means that the majority was obtained which you boast of, and the petition filled which you forwarded to the Assembly. The latter was increased in size by the forging of children's names who cannot pronounce the word Prohibition. But what can you say about the Prohibitionists? How did they behave on the 22nd? Yes, these madmen who were so belied by your infamous advertisements, those tyrants who were so much abused. Was there any attempt on their part to prevent liberty of speech? Was there any force to get men to their side? Was there not order, decorum, and becoming demeanor all through? And what have they to gain by all their efforts? They have no profitable business to build up and appetites to gratify if they succeed. All they ask is the good of the country.

I have little to say about the Chairman, I cannot think he meant to do anything unfairly. But if he had done his duty, he would have insisted upon a fair hearing on both sides. And when he gave orders to have the boys that were mounted on the snowbank to increase your numbers, to be removed, he would have seen that his orders were obeyed.

You cannot wonder that the Sons did not think him a proper person to preside at such a meeting; when, holding one of the highest offices of the County, he can make use of the language he has done in reference to the members of the order.

PROHIBITIONIST.

**CALVIN AIKEN & CO.,**  
GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,  
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## The Politician.

### COLONIAL PRESS.

From the St. John Morning Courier.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

We notice by the reported debates of the Legislative Council that some allusion was made by a number of that body to the apparent discrepancy between the respective financial statements of the Province as made up by the Treasurer, the Provincial Secretary and the Committee of the House of Assembly on Public Accounts. The New-Brunswick of yesterday also takes up the subject, and makes it a cause of complaint against the Provincial Secretary that these statements differ so widely from one another, thus preventing the true financial state of the Province from being known.

We have looked into the respective statements alluded to, but cannot see any cause of alarm on account of any mystification in these documents, which appear to be clear and intelligible, and should any one take the trouble to examine them carefully, we think he will come to the conclusion that it would have been impossible to have found them all exactly agreeing, as each one is made up from different items while the statement of the Committee on Public Accounts is made up showing the financial affairs of the Province four months later than the other two returns.

The Provincial Secretary's statement is made up to the 31st October, which is the close of the Fiscal year, and contains an account of all the liabilities of the Government as well as all the assets up to that date, and may be relied on as thoroughly correct.

The Treasurer's statement is made up to the same date, viz: 31st October, the close of the Fiscal year, and contains an account of all monies and securities in and passing through his hands; but as there are certain accounts and monies with which he has nothing to do, such as those belonging to the Crown Land Department and the Receiver General's office, it is evident that his annual statement, although correct so far as it goes, cannot be taken as the financial account of the affairs of the whole Province, but merely an account of the assets and liabilities passing through his hands only. The statement of the Provincial Secretary and Treasurer could not, therefore, possibly agree.

The Report of the Committee of Public Accounts was made up for the purpose of shewing the state of the affairs of the Province up to the first March, 1856, a period four months later than that on which the Secretary's account was made up. This statement was compiled from certain information asked for by an address of the House, moved by Mr. Wilnot, but which did not contain all the particulars necessary to make up a correct statement, from which, alone, it would be impossible to do so. The Committee make the assets of the Province at least £20,000 less than they really were at that time, having omitted some important items such as the balance in hands of Deputy Treasurers; upwards of £2000 in hands of Baring Brothers to meet interest on Debentures; £6000 sterling or £7200 currency of St. Andrew's and Quebec Railway stock, which amount has been paid by the Province and for which scrip has been received, but which has not been included among the assets by the Committee. Besides these sums there were about £2000 of undrawn appropriations on the 1st November, which have been drawn since that date.

It will be seen from this how absurd it is to blame the Provincial Secretary because these three statements did not all agree; and our readers may rest assured that the figures in the account, as made up by the Secretary, will be found upon examination, to be thoroughly correct.

It has also been stated that the financial statement of the Provincial Secretary, does not show the real amount of debt owing by the Province, as there are some of the items put down under the head of assets, such as £6000 Saint John Bridge Bonds which are utterly valueless. We presume the Secretary is bound to consider such items as assets until they are cancelled or discharged by the proper Legislative authority, and so far as he is concerned, we do not see that he could adopt any other course, under the circumstances, than to continue them in the accounts as he has done, these items having been left by the old Government as part of the assets of the Province.

From the Fredericton Reporter.

#### POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

The disposition for long speeches and special pleading was never so apparent—so painfully prominent—as it is in the present Session; and the question naturally arises, and is asked and re-asked every day, must the Province forever be subject to this painful and expensive infliction, with the cause from which it results so nakedly visible. It is but a few days ago that a fortnight's debate, or rather of useless recrimination, introduced nearly at the beginning of the Session, terminated in the establishment of the present Government in office, and now we are in the midst of another *molee* of the kind in reference to a subject the general principle of which is acknowledged by almost every member in the House. Well then may we join with the general enquiry, and ask—are we to be thus forever?

As a general rule, when a Government is sustained by a vote of the House of Commons, the

nobility of an English opposition manifests itself by dropping all factions proceedings, and by assisting with strong hands and earnest hearts to perfect not defeat the measures of the Administration. The acrimony and selfishness of party are laid aside, and both parties are found making common cause for the benefit of their common country. We wish it were possible to say the same of certain Colonies which affect to copy and applaud British precedent. We wish it were left beyond the reach of our enemies to affirm that we are less studious to copy the virtues than the failings and imperfections of English usages. We have the more confidence in speaking on this subject because a few years ago we condemned the policy of Mr. Johnson in this particular, although he was a man whose politics were strictly in accordance with our own, and although he was at the time almost alone and thus had the very best apology for supporting those views in the House of Assembly; but we saw the hopelessness of the task in which he had engaged, and we felt anxious that the immediate business of the country should be proceeded with.

Mr. Gray, the leader of the present opposition does not by any means occupy the same ground, nor can he plead the former excuse of Mr. Johnson. There is not—even taking his own views—a single unsettled political principle in the Province, nor is there an abstract difference on the subject of Railways. Beyond this, Mr. Gray acknowledges that his own constituents—locally considered—have a right to be satisfied with the programme of the Railway; but he finds fault with the general system, a system which without the shadow of doubt has been partially forced upon the country by the policy of whom—why of his own constituents! Our decided opinion from the first was, as Mr. Gray now for the first time expresses it—that Jackson's contract should have been suffered to expire; while in the mean time another more important line should be proceeded with; but Mr. Gray well knows that the people of St. John were such great spoiled babies that they would not have a day's patience; and as St. John ever controuls the Province with its six members, Mr. Gray being one of them, neither the present nor any other Executive could, have made a better arrangement. If there be any thing wrong in it, let Mr. Gray, who now takes up the question as a member for the Province,—settle that wrong with his own constituents. It will become a member from St. John to base his opposition upon a point so dubious; and that man who affects to treat the question solely as a Provincial one, should at least enjoy a large amount of Provincial popularity.

It is all clever enough for Mr. Gray, and his coadjutors to make long speeches; and in the former to make them with special judgment and classical precision; but we question much whether of the whole present programme were thrown in his lap and left to his own decision he would dare to take the responsibility of giving it a veto; and more especially with the cherished but partial plan of the Government to which himself belonged, all blown to pieces by the Jackson-contract explosion.

From the Westmoreland Times.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

Of all the so styled specimens of Legislation which ever took place in this Province, that now being enacted in the House of Assembly is undoubtedly the most miserable. Of all the opposition ever set on foot on the floor of our Council Chambers, the present is the most factious and the most unwarrantable.

Could we in any one instance discover where the present Government were either incapable or had wilfully abused the trust committed to them, we should not be so ready to approve, on the one hand, or condemn so unscrupulously on the other. But when we discover no better feelings animating the opposition than selfishness, jealousy, hatred, and a determination at all hazards, to unseat the present Administration, merely for the sake of elevating themselves to place and honour, then we are bound to tell them plainly, that their motives, and their desires, have already become apparent, and their conduct is condemned by the right thinking portion of the community. In one particular they have done the Country a good service, although we are by no means disposed to give them credit for any good intention in having done so, they have called forth the energy and the talent of the present Executive, and shown to the world where the true friends of the Country are, while they have established beyond a doubt, the principles with which actuate themselves, and the direction in which their own policy tends.

We have no wish to uphold the present or any other Government, upon any other principle than their own merits; and had they not come out of the furnace with a brighter lustre than they possessed before being tried, we should not be so ready to express our confidence so freely and so fully as we now do; and when we find them again unnecessarily and improperly subjected to the same ordeal, we hesitate not to condemn the spirit which actuates, and the motives which govern their opponents; and should they succeed in displacing the Government upon the present Railway Scheme, they will have accomplished more injury to the Country than they can repair for the next ten years to come—an injury which some of them will find out when too late to regain their seats at the General Election, which is sure to follow in the event of their abominable schemes being successful.