

## Communications.

### LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

Mr Editor—Sir—

Attentive readers of the Debates on the "No Confidence" question in our Provincial Parliament, cannot fail to remark with surprise the conflicting and contradictory character of the charges set up by the opposition, against the party at present in power. For instance: they are charged by one Honorable Member for doing an unpardonable wrong in appointing a political opponent to an Office, in the case of Mr Partelow, and by the same and others of his coadjutors, for appointing so many political friends and partisans, to places of trust and emolument. In no case, be it observed, is the fitness of the incumbent questioned. They are arraigned for appointing unqualified men as Magistrates in Gloucester, at the desire, and with the consent of the County Members—for appointing qualified men in Kent, without the desire and consent of the County Members—and for making appointments in St. John, without the approval of the Municipal Authorities. They are likewise charged with extravagance in creating a new office—Commissioner of Board of Works—and for not creating another new office in the shape of a Postmaster-General, the only advantage of which would be the securing an additional supporter of the Government in the House of Assembly, at the cost of six hundred a year to the Country. To these were added charges for neglecting great works of public improvement—and for a too premature settlement with Jackson & Co., in order to be enabled to enter into works of improvement without delay; as well as for extravagance generally. It will be observed also that chiefly all these complaints are charged as violations of the Laws of Responsible Government, which the Administration are pledged to maintain as their rule and guide.

These various and conflicting charges, if reduced and stated in juxta position, would stand thus—

No. 1—You stand charged with a violation of the principles of Responsible Government, inasmuch as you appointed to office a person politically opposed to you.

No. 2—You stand charged &c., inasmuch as you appointed to Office, friends and partisans, who were not politically opposed to you.

No. 3—You stand charged &c., inasmuch as you appointed Magistrates, with the consent and at the desire of the local County Members.

No. 4—You stand charged &c., inasmuch as you appointed Magistrates, without the consent of the local County Members.

No. 5—You stand charged &c., inasmuch as you created a new Office, in the Commissionership of the Board of Works, at the expense of six hundred a year.

No. 6—You stand charged &c., inasmuch as you did not create another new office as Postmaster-General, at the expense of six hundred a year.

No. 7—You stand charged &c., for your extravagance in every department of the public service.

No. 8—You stand charged &c., for your parsimony and meanness in the conduct of the Crown Lands and Secretary's Departments, or you would not have been able to manage them so cheaply.

These anomalous charges might be multiplied, from the published reports of the Legislative proceedings, and really it must be admitted, that a disinterested enquirer, anxious to be enlightened on the comparative merits of two contending parties or systems, will be naturally puzzled to reconcile them, one with the other, or—with common sense.

It is painful and humiliating to learn that a body of men, who aim at supreme political power, and united together for the one common purpose of obtaining it, should be so completely at variance in thoughts, sentiments, and opinions, that not two of them could agree as to what constituted an offence against the Laws of good Government.

The only solution to the puzzle is this—That every member of that cabal, was influenced by some secret motive of his own: to attempt the overthrow of the Government—probably by the prospect of obtaining something valuable in the scramble which would follow—but the means by which they sought to accomplish it were as various as the motives which instigated them. The attempt under such circumstances was of course abortive; it met with the defeat it plainly merited, but more than this, it exposed the imbecility and weakness of the faction, and stamped their efforts with ridicule for years to come.

MARK.

Restigouche, March 4, 1856.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—Not taking your paper (more shame for me) but only getting an occasional glance at it from a neighbour, I am not aware what your views are at present, respecting Politics; but am desirous that you will permit me to appear, for the first time in print, as follows:—We are in this County all rejoicing at the intelligence you sent us in the last Gleaner (at which I got a squint) of the sustenance of the Government. Its members are of the breed and metal which we like to see in authority, and we sincerely hope that they may long uphold their present untainted characters, and retain the power to shape the destinies of our Province. One of our members maintained an honorable, because consistent, stand, in his opposition to the Mi-

nistry, but the other I am very sorry indeed to see, has made an exceedingly foolish "coup de Saitier," and after all landed on the wrong side of the fence.

Montgomery bold, his ground did hold,

Weak Botsford, turned his coat;

In hour of need, was Gloster sold,

End was not there to vote.

The latter gentleman, used in old times, in his own peculiar way, to explain the Greek word *Schediasma*, which was want to adorn the head of your paper, and puzzle the seeker after knowledge "under difficulties," but in the late division in the House, where he was not, he has given a practical illustration thereof.—Under which King "Bostonian?" Speak, or—"Get Out."

ALFRED AGUSTUS.

### COUNTY KENT.

James A. Pierce, Esq.,

Dear Sir.—An anonymous Communication, dated from Richibucto, and signed "Forty Four," appeared in the *Temperance Telegraph* of the 28th ult., in which an outrageous attempt was made to describe the character and proceedings of a very large and respectable public Meeting, held in the Court House in Richibucto on the 22nd of February last. This Meeting, of which you, no doubt, are already aware, was convened by the High Sheriff of Kent, in obedience to the terms of a Requisition placed in his hands by a number of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the County, in order that a general expression of the sentiments of the people might be given, relative to the enactments of the Prohibitory Liquor Law. The Requisitionists, in common with a large number of other Inhabitants of the County, believing that law to be wholly inadequate to attain the ends contemplated by it, and being impressed with the clear conviction that after a few unsuccessful efforts to enforce it upon the Country, it would ultimately be obligatory upon the Legislature to have it obliterated from among the Statutes of the Province. Under these and similar other convictions, the Requisitionists deemed it advisable that a Public Meeting should be held to ascertain whether the wishes and sympathies of the majority of such meeting were opposed to the repeal of the law, or whether they were for having it replaced by a stringent Liquor Law. They were prepared to abide by the decision that would that day be pronounced by the sovereign will of the people. If the opinion of the people that the law was clearly and fully operative in its power to repress the evils for which it existed, and if their wish to have it remain unscathed, prevailed, then the Requisitionists, and all those whose opinions coincided with theirs, would have bowed to the decision. But if, on the contrary, the decision of the people expressed their decided belief that the law was utterly inoperative in its ability to effect the great end and aim of its enactment, then they would be furnished with a just and legitimate basis whereon to take their stand, and, by petition, respectfully called upon the Representatives, to exert their influence in procuring, forthwith, the repeal of that law which has already aroused so much hostile feeling throughout the Country.

The above brief explanation of the views and objects of the Requisitionists has been rendered necessary by the malicious attempt of "Forty four" to exhibit them to the Country as creatures overwhelmed with shame, and trembling at the exposure of their names in connexion with the origin of that meeting. Advisedly, then, I say that they were not ashamed of being the men to whose Requisition so large and respectable a body of men responded. But on him be the shame, Yes, emphatically on him, the base hireling, the mantle of shame, reproach, and disgrace has fallen; for no man, but one whose truckling mind—supremely controlled by utter baseness, and recklessness of heart, would have perilled and wrecked his reputation as he has done.

Not satisfied with placing his own name under the ban of reproach, he has likewise succeeded in implicating that of his Division as well as of the individual members comprising it. For assuming from his signature, which represents the number of the Division to which he belongs, that he is a fair exponent of the views and feelings entertained of the meeting, by the body of which he is a member, and that therefore the distorted report he has published of it has received their most cordial approval. At least, in the absence of any contradictory testimony the assumption is fair and justifiable—and if his party, as a body, or individually, endorse his sentiments, then it must be conceded that they should reciprocate with him his shame—bearing their full measure of it. One example will suffice. How can they reconcile the vote of thanks tendered to the Chairman by the Revd. Gentleman, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Weldon, and passed by acclamation, with the charge so broadly insinuated against him of being a "partisan," and "impartial"? How, I ask, can these inconsistencies be reconciled? Either the Rev. Gentleman was sincere in moving that vote of thanks, or he was not. Taking "Forty-four's" letter as a correct solution of the knotty difficulty, we are unavoidably shut up in the conclusion that he was not sincere, that he was only tampering with the feelings of the Chairman, and playing a loose and fast game to the infinite amusement of the Prohibitionist party. Such, in substance, is the impression that has gone abroad by the publication of "Forty-four's" letter, and it is to be hoped the Revd. Gentleman will feel it to be his duty to make a public deliverance of himself from the odium of insincere-

ity and inconsistency so plainly implied in the letter of that detestable knave.

I remain respectfully yours,

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

Richibucto, March 8, 1856.

### COUNTY NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr Editor,

The original of the Bill which you kindly inserted a copy of in the Gleaner of the 1st instant, is now before the House of Assembly, and surely Lumberers and others will not look upon it with apathy, but show for once that they can look after their rights, as well as another class, who generally take the advantage of them. Yours, &c.,

SPRUGE & CO.

March 15, 1856.

Mr Editor,

Sir.—Since my last communication, I find the *enemy* have been raising heaven and earth to get signatures to petitions in support of their *Pat Bill*, and that they have used *Ledger* influence, and all other *schemas*. But having travelled a large portion of this County in the meantime, I can assure you it will be of little avail, and moreover I will predict, that the Member who would aid in passing it into a law, need never expect to get a seat in the House of Assembly from this County. If they doubt it, let them get the private opinions and determination of those who are likely to be voters at the next Election, and if they do not find me right ten to one, I will never venture to predict any thing again. Yours, &c.

A LUMBERMAN.

March 12, 1856.

## News of the Week.

### UNITED STATES.

From the Boston Herald.

THE PAPERS ON THE ARBITRATION DISPUTE. The correspondence opens Nov. 23, 1854, by a letter from Mr Buchanan to Mr Marcy, and closes by a letter from Lord Clarendon to Mr Crampton. We have not room for the entire correspondence, but proceed to give a correct summary of every important point.

Mr Buchanan informs Mr Marcy, Nov. 2, 1855, that in the course of a conversation with Lord Clarendon his Lordship intimated that it might be desirable to have the opinion of a third Power on the true construction of the Convention: "I jocularly replied that the Emperor of Russia was the only power sufficiently independent to act as an impartial umpire in the case, and that they had gone to war with him."

Mr Buchanan, Nov. 9, '55, writes to Mr Marcy that Lord Clarendon said, in an interview the day previous:—About these Central American questions the best mode of settling them is by arbitration. I replied there was nothing to arbitrate. He said the true construction was a proper subject for arbitration. I told him I did not consider it a question for construction at all. The language was plain and explicit, and I thought this would be the almost unanimous opinion of the American people.

Mr Buchanan again to Mr Marcy, Feb. 5th, 1856, after alluding to the speeches of Lord Derby and Lord Clarendon in the House of Lords, in which it was asserted that a referendum of the whole question had been offered to the arbitration of any third Power, says— "As I have never learned that the British had made any such offer to the Government of the United States through Mr Crampton, I infer that his lordship must have referred to the general conversations between him and myself, which would by no means justify the broad terms of his statement. Thus much merely to vindicate the truth of history."

Again to Mr Marcy, Feb. 8th. Mr Buchanan says:—

I had an interview with Lord Clarendon, at the Foreign Office. I told him I desired to ascertain whether the statement he had made in the House of Lords on the evening of Thursday, the 31st ultimo, that the British government had made to the American government an offer which has been recently renewed, to arbitrate the Central American questions, was founded on what had passed between him and myself in conversation, or whether he had instructed Mr Crampton to make to you in writing a formal proposal for arbitration. He replied that his statement was founded on our different conversations, and that in these, he had proposed to me in reference to those questions to my government. I informed him that I had faithfully reported to you all the conversations we had in reference to an arbitration, but I had not believed that what he had said on these occasions amounted to such an offer as could be recognised by our government as a foundation for specific action on so grave a matter. I added that I did not doubt you were of the same opinion, as I had never received a line from you on the subject. He observed that, before holding these conversations with me, he had consulted the Cabinet, and spoke their sentiments as well as his own. I remarked that this fact had now, for the first time, been communicated to me. If he had informed me of it at the time it would have given his conversation a more serious character, and caused it to make a deeper impression on my mind.

He said he had thought that, as a matter of course, I would consider what he had said to me had been said after consultation with the Cabinet. In reply I observed that I had thought that when one nation desired to pro-

pose to another the submission of an international dispute to arbitration, this would be done by writing, and in due form. Such has been their own course when they proposed to arbitrate Oregon question. He then, for the first time, informed me that he had addressed a despatch to Mr Crampton, on the subject, with instructions to him to read it to you.—He then sent for it, and read it to me. I believe it is dated in November, but a copy being doubtless in your possession, it will speak for itself. And he informs me that all you had said about it to Mr Crampton, was that the matter was in Mr Buchanan's hands.

On the 27th of February, at 11 o'clock, P. M. Mr Crampton sent a letter to Mr Marcy communicating, for the first time, the despatch of Lord Clarendon, above referred to. He says:—"As I was aware that the negotiation of the questions regarding Central America was in Mr Buchanan's and Lord Clarendon's hands, I considered the despatch as meant merely for my own information as to what was going forward upon a subject in regard to which I inferred you were already informed."

Lord Clarendon's despatch to Mr Crampton is dated Nov. 10, 1855, and is in the following words:—

Sir—Mr Buchanan having in the course of conversation, a few days ago, adverted to the impression that would be created in the U. S. by the non-settlement of the Central American question, I again assured him that England had no wish to extend her influence or obtain any territory in that part of the world; and I reminded him that, as the difference between this country and the United States turned solely upon the interpretation of the treaty of 1850 I had offered, on the part of her Majesty's government, to submit the case to arbitration of a third power, but that he had declined the offer.

Her Majesty's government, I said, would still abide by that offer, and thought it would be the fairest and most amicable manner of arriving at a settlement of the question. Mr Buchanan said he would make it known to his government and you are instructed to communicate this to Mr Marcy.

I am with great truth and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

CLARENDON.

J. F. Crampton, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

This is the entire correspondence that has passed between the representatives of the two governments on the question of arbitration.—Some debate arose in the Senate after the papers had been read, but no action was taken.

### NEW BRUNSWICK.

Fire.—Another serious fire occurred on Friday morning, by which the block of wooden buildings on Union street, lately put up by Mr Crosby, was almost entirely destroyed, and the adjoining house occupied by Mr Henry Horton, harness maker, was much damaged. The fire originated in the Bowery Saloon, on the corner of Union and Charlotte Streets, kept by a man named Comstock, and was first discovered about half-past 1 A. M. the boy who attends the shop left the place at half-past 12, and says that then all was right. Comstock himself resided on the premises. The fire quickly spread to the adjoining shops, and Messrs. Conway, Hogan, Curran, Sharpe, and Anderson, were all burned out, and suffered more or less seriously; Mr. Hogan's large stock of Cabinet work was much injured. Mr T. Marter had a large quantity of oats on the upper flat of the building, and this too was destroyed. The high buildings on the opposite side of the street were for some time in much danger, the fronts being blistered and scorched, and with difficulty saved from catching fire.

At a Meeting of the College Council, held on the 18th day of February, 1856, the following Degrees, conferred by the Convocation, were approved of. Reverend John M. Brooke, Doctor of Divinity. Professor Jack, Doctor of Civil Law. William Wright, Esquire, Doctor of Civil Law. George Roberts, Esquire, Master of Arts.

The late heavy snow storms have greatly retarded travelling in this Province and in the adjoining American States. On Saturday afternoon a mail arrived from the Westward, but only brought us papers which should have come to hand on Friday morning.

A question put to the Government a few days since in the House of Assembly, in relation to the Militia force of the Province was answered yesterday by the Hon. Attorney General, who stated that the Government was at present in correspondence with the different military authorities throughout the Province, with the view of obtaining full statistical information on the subject. Nothing, he said, had yet transpired leading the Government to advise his Excellency to call out the Militia.—*Fredericton Reporter*, March 7.

The Boston Steamers again!—How swiftly and gracefully the Adelaide steamed up the harbor on Wednesday morning last! It was quite a refreshing sight; and as soon as the Admiral makes her appearance bustle and business will be immediately revived. And we shall be on the best of terms with our cousins over the way, for this war rumour will be blown to the South Pole in a few days.

If Colonel Favor were President of the United States, he wouldn't hear of such an idea of setting two great nations by the ears—would you Colonel?

### P. E. ISLAND.

The rumour prevailed that a new Governor—a gentleman of colonial birth—was about to be appointed and great curiosity, with no small degree of excitement, was manifested to ascertain who and what the newcomer was to be.