

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS TIMES.

And Incidental References to Some of His Prominent Public Contemporaries.

By "Historicus," Fredericton, N. B.

Mr. Howe's Speech—Concluded.

The honorable gentleman (Mr. Holmes) reminds me that Lord John Russell supports good measures when Sir Robert Peel brings them down. We would do the same, if any were brought. But our complaint is, that His Excellency conducts the government of this country with half a Council, who, in two sessions, have introduced no measures at all. But did my honorable friend ever hear of Sir Robert Peel complaining that he could not conduct the government on his own principles, because the Whigs would not help him? did he ever offer them seats in the cabinet to sacrifice a leader, and then denounce him and abuse them, when the sage proposition was refused? We are told that my friend, Mr. Uniacke, was not the leader in the last House. He was; if he bore his honors with less ostentation than his successor, he was acknowledged the leader of the government from 1840 to 1843; and that rank was cheerfully yielded by his colleagues. My honorable friend tells us, that my popularity has declined. Perhaps so; but he forgets to add, that if it has, I lost it by supporting Lord Falkland's measures, and Lord Falkland's government; by sharing the unpopularity of those with whom I was associated, and who have made so ungrateful a return. But is this House the test of any man's popularity now? We all know it was returned before Mr. Almon's appointment, before the retirement, before the proscription. The people of Nova Scotia have had no opportunity of pronouncing a judgment upon these acts of folly; when they have, we shall see whose popularity and influence have declined. The honorable gentleman gave us a lecture on decency, but if he turns to my comparison again, he will find nothing which the most fastidious taste would reject. His name sake was condemned by the fanatics of Edinburgh, for writing the play of Douglas; the critics have perished, but the drama still lives. I am surprised that the honorable member reads no lectures to his learned friends, who are greater transgressors than I; and that he should have forgotten that the Pictou Observer, the organ of his own party, was remarkable for disgusting obscenity. I must now part with my honorable friend, whose joke at Mr. Uniacke's expense might have been spared, had the member for Pictou remembered that the reflection conveyed on the piety and sincerity of the Presbyterians of that fine county, was most undeserved; although the ways do say, that, in his own person, by a sudden stroke of policy, the Anti-burgers lost a member, and the Kirk secured a deacon.

Let me now turn to an opponent of different style of mind; one with less originality but higher "pretensions." That I should have lived to be charged with "vapid declamation" by the honorable and learned member for Hants (Mr. Wilkins) was most unlooked for. I had nerved myself for everything else, but that quite overcame me. He, whom I have seen day after day clear these benches, until you, Mr. Chairman, sat like a solitary victim; he, whom the venerable President of the Legislative Council assured that he was not the only sufferer, when he complained of fatigue after a long oration; he, whom I heard thus accosted by one of his own constituents at the nine mile river: "Are ye never gawn to be done, sir, and let the ither man gie us a screed?" Has it been my mistreatment to out-herod Herod? to appear tedious to the ears of him who wears every body else? That gentleman and I met on several occasions last summer, and although the argument may have all been on his side, the freeholders were generally on mine. He published his speeches subsequently, and I was strongly tempted to issue a new edition of them with this title "Speeches of L. M. Wilkins, Esq., which did not convince the people." Vapid declamation! Oh, no, sir, I cannot admit the learned gentleman to be a judge even of the article in which he deals. It has been said that language was given us to conceal our thoughts; if so, there has been sinitful profusion in the case of the learned gentleman, who has one living language and two or three dead ones; yet so very few thoughts to conceal. He said I gave the House specimens of tragedy, comedy and farce. I regret that he has given us neither. The only character to which he aspires is the fine gentleman in the Vaudeville; but even that he dresses with too much pretension, and plays with little ease. His form was the rounded symmetry; his features the dignified repose; his mind the playful energy which are essential to the character. He is too "fussy." He might pass for a scholar but for his pedantry, and for a fine gentleman but for his pretensions. The learned gentleman appears to have leaned over the Castalian Spring, not to slake his thirst, or arrange his robe to set off the harmonies of nature, but to fall in love, as Narcissus did, with his own image, and die with admiration of himself. The learned gentleman favored us with a lecture on good breeding, the gist being summed up at the end, where he declared that any man was a gentleman who took off his hat to him. One thing which he said certainly did astonish me: "I will not extend my hand to, or sit at the festive board with a man who lampoons a Governor." Here is a social proscription with a vengeance! How shall any man exist who has to cut his mutton without the light of the learned gentleman's countenance, and from whom his gloved fingers are withdrawn? But is the learned gentleman consistent in his reverence for authority—with his virtuous hatred of those who write lampoons? This committee, this community, know who was the reputed editor of The Pictou Observer, and they will judge by a very few passages whether that gentleman's own near relative has not committed the unpardonable offence. [Here Mr. Howe read a variety of

extracts from The Pictou Observer, a paper said to have been edited by Mr. Wilkins' brother, in which Lord Falkland was accused of degrading his office by uncovering his head and holding the Prince de Joinville's stirrup while he mounted his horse; of going in plain clothes to a ball on the Queen's birthday, and having a foreigner for a secretary who might purloin official correspondence; of endeavoring to concentrate all the powers of government and legislation in his own hands, &c. He also read scurrilous extracts reflecting on the House, the Legislative Council and the Colonial Secretary.] Now, Mr. Chairman, will it be believed that the learned gentleman from Hants has maintained a brotherly intercourse with the person who openly countenanced, if he did not write these, and dozens of other attacks upon the Lieutenant Governor? But, sir, there is another passage in which it is said Lord Falkland "has not only the bend sinister on his escutcheon, but on his heart." Little skill in heraldry is required to understand the malignant indelicacy of that allusion; and what shall we think of the man who would introduce the slanderer, not to his own board, but into the bosom of the Lieutenant Governor's family, after such an outrage? This was submitted to because the learned member's vote could not be done without. I leave him and his party to reconcile these facts with their vehement regard for the honor and feelings of the Lieutenant Governor. The people of Nova Scotia will probably come to the conclusion that jokes and lampoons are very innocent things when they come from the right side and the right family.

All this has been forgiven and forgotten; but I am to be remembered even when a new Governor arrives. Though he may "not know Joseph," he is to be told of his misdeeds, though Martin's are to be "cast discreetly in the shade." The learned gentleman tells me that I closed the door upon myself; but what are the facts? That my friends and myself walked out of the door because we did not like the doings within the premises; when immediately a cry of burglary was raised. "Is not the Governor to be the judge of his own honor?" the learned gentleman asks. Were we not to be the judges of ours when false and defamatory charges were raised against us? were we to shrink from necessary self-defence? It is said that President Polk would not admit a man to his cabinet who had laughed at him; but what does this prove? The superiority of British to American institutions, making, as they do, the will of the nation superior to that even of the chief magistrate. The learned gentleman favored us with the case of a gallant colonel, known to us all; but I intend to show that it was a most unfortunate illustration. His was an offence against majesty; against a lady and a sovereign, unprovoked, gratuitous, gross. But even that has been forgiven and forgotten in the same reign; the officer is at the head of his regiment again, and Her Majesty has one soldier the more, and one sullen and discontented servant the less. But what was said of the informer? What does Sam Slick say of him?

"'Tho' I was born in Connecticut, I have travelled all over the thirteen united universal worlds of ourn, and am a citizen at large. No, I have no prejudice. Now, I mean that carry such little-tittle; now, I won't say men nother, for they ain't men, that's a fact; they don't deserve the name. They are just spaniel puppies, that fetch and carry, and they ought to be treated like puppies; they should have their tails cut and ears cropt, so that they might have their right livery."

"Oh, how it has lowered the English in the eyes of foreigners! How sneekin' it makes 'em look! They seem for all the world like scared dogs; and a dog, when he sneeks off with his head down, his head between his legs, and his back so mean it won't bristle, is a caution to sinners. Lord, I wish I was Queen!"

"But without joking, though, if I was Queen, the first time any of my ministers came to me to report what the spies had said, I'd just up and say, 'It's a cussed oninglish, onmanly, niggerly business, is that of pumpin' and spyin' and tattlin.' I don't like it a bit; I'll neither have art nor part in it; I wash my hands clear of it. It will just break the spirit of my people. So, minister, look here; the next report that is brought me of a spy, I'll whip his tongue out and whop your ear off, or my name ain't Queen. So just mind what I say; first spy pokes his nose in your office, chop it off and clap it over Temple Bar, where they put the heads of traitors, and write these words over with your own fist, that they may know the handwritin', and not mistake the meanin', 'This is the Nose of a Spy.'"

grow beneath the heat of his imagination, until, like Pygmalion's statue, she sunk into his arms in all the freshness of health and passion. She had not been long there, however, before he began to give her a bad character, and declared that he could not tell whether she was a harlot or an honest woman. I will not undertake to decide, but think that responsible government, or Angelica—for that seems to be the fancy name—will be very apt to be judged by the company she keeps. Before passing from this topic, I may as well caution the learned gentleman not to set himself up for a moralist until he reforms a little; and when he preaches sermons on delicacy, to be a little more choice of language, or we shall have to apply the lines to him which Juvenal aims at Criticus: "Nor, vain Metellus, shall From Rome's Tribunal thy barages prevail 'Gainst Harlotry, while thou art clad so thin, That through thy coltweb robe we see thy skin As thou decamst."

The learned gentleman, with a solemn invocation to Nemesis, asked me if I quailed before the "air drawn daggers," the whirlwind, or the "false fire" by which I was surrounded? He shall be my judge. Three times I met him in his own county last summer; he knows which of us shrank from the encounter, or won the victory. He has seen me here for the last ten days; he sees me now. Do I quail? No, sir, I take my stand upon the constitution of my country, and all the powers of darkness cannot disturb my mind. But, oh! sir, I should like to see him in my position, with an armful of dispatches heaped upon his head; with a Governor and all his patronage to sap and mine him; with two crown officers and half a dozen lawyers in his front, and tagrag and bob-tail in his rear; perhaps he might comport himself with more dignity than I do, but I confess I have my doubts. The reference to my pilgrimage to Downing street, came with an ill grace from him. When I went to Downing Street, some years ago, I went as a private gentleman, at my own cost and charges. My Colonial character was my only introduction, and I received more courtesy and kindness than I deserved. When that gentleman went on his pilgrimage, as my learned colleague wittily rendered him—the Province paid for his staff and scallop shell; £500 sterling was drawn out of the revenue of this country to furnish his scrip; and his errand was hostile to the public interests, and to the wishes of the people. The learned gentleman cavils at my imagery, and tells us that Lord Falkland stands like an English oak, verdant and vigorous. I will adopt the figure, and admit that he stood so once; but I fear that the insidious ivy, the parasite plant, and other creeping things, have so wound their tendrils around him, and though there is the outward semblance of a tree, the core is decayed, and the fountains of life withdrawn. But, Mr. Chairman, I lingered long enough with a member for Hants. In closing I may as well give him a line or two of plain English, in return for all his Latin. They were addressed by a great poet to a great king, but always come into my head when the learned gentleman draws towards the close of one of his "vapid declamations," and I long to exclaim— "At length proud Prince, ambitious Lewis, cease To plague mankind."

This was the strain in which Mr. Howe indulged in connection with all the gentlemen in succession who had attacked him; and I have thought it worth while to copy the remarks that his powers may be understood better than by making a bald reference to them. In a future No. I will make a quotation from Mr. Howe's poetical works, for the purpose of exhibiting him in this line of literature. With respect to the piquant references to Lord Falkland, these will be explained hereafter when the grip is taken with his lordship by Mr. Howe for his unconstitutional and undignified conduct as a Governor.

A POWERFUL CHARM.

How a Man Got Rid of His Swollen Cheek. Credulity and superstition are not confined to the lower classes alone in Ireland. A story told me as an actual fact by an educated lady, the daughter and sister of a clergyman, might very well be classed as an instance of both. We were discussing the subject of charms, and I was surprised to see that she believed in them herself, as did also her reverend brother.

"I cannot doubt what I know to be true myself," she said; and told us the following tale, which I give in her own words: "There was a man in our village, a respectable shopkeeper, who was afflicted with an enormous tumour in his cheek. 'I well remember the feelings of awe and curiosity with which I used to inspect his profile in church when I was a child. He sat a few pews in front of us, and I could not resist the temptation of watching him all through the service, and looking for the grotesque effects of his enormously exaggerated cheek. His infirmity seemed to increase with years, and the poor man was a frightful object. One day not long ago I passed a man in the village street, whose face I seemed to know, and yet I could not think of his name. 'It suddenly dawned upon me it was Mr. — without his swollen cheek! 'I could hardly believe my senses, and followed him into a shop on purpose to see if it really could be the man I had seen only the Sunday before, so marvellously changed in such a short time. 'Yes, it certainly was Mr. —. 'He addressed me first, saying, 'I suppose you hardly recognise me'; and he told me how he was cured. It was by a charm! 'He was advised to go out the first night the new moon was visible, and after saying 'In the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,' to wave a dinner-plate round his head nine times towards the new moon. He did so; and in the morning his tumour had completely disappeared! 'Such was the tale told to me and implicitly believed in by an educated Irish lady.

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THE MANGO TRICK.

How the Indian Jugglers Perform the Famous Illusion.

In 1865 a friend of mine was on the point of leaving Calcutta, when some native jugglers came on board the steamer to give an exhibition of their powers. The surroundings were thus very unfavorable for the performance of anything but a very dexterous trick, and the mango exhibition was given on the bare deck.

The performer was almost naked, so that there was no opportunity for the concealment of flower-pot under a robe. He placed before him, first of all, a small flat native wicker-work basket, such as snakes are carried in. This was filled with earth. A mango seed was then produced. It was a very large one—a point, this, of importance in view of what follows—and was duly placed in the earth and covered up. The earth was watered, and the basket in its turn concealed by a small cotton cloth.

Then began the usual mutterings and incantations, while the earth was again sprinkled with water and stirred with the fingers of the operator. After a few minutes' interval the juggler lifted the cloth and showed to the spectators two small mango leaves appearing above the surface of the earth.

The basket was once more covered up, the watering of the earth and the incantations proceeded, and in a short time, when the cloth was removed, a mango plant, 7 inches or 8 inches high, and bearing four or five leaves, was disclosed to view. After another interval, a seedling mango appeared, at least 13 inches high, and bearing seven or eight leaves. Here the performance ended.

Curiosity was rife, of course regarding the juggler's modus operandi, and my friend, anxious to know how the trick was performed, offered the juggler a good round sum of money for the disclosure of the secret. After some hesitation, the man consented to reveal his art, stipulating that his revelation should be conducted in a secluded spot. A cabin on the ship was offered and accepted as a suitable place, and the juggler and my friend retired thereto. The basket was prepared as before, and mango seed was handed around. It was, as before, a large one. On its being returned to the juggler, he pressed one end of the seed with his long finger-nail, when the seed opened. Two small leaves, those first seen in the deck-trick, were then withdrawn from the seed, and next in order came forth the stem, three inches in length. Ultimately, the full length of the plant were manipulated out of the seed before the eyes of the spectators.

The seed was, in fact, a hollow one, and the young plant had been dexterously folded within its compass. It is the art of folding the plant inside the seed which constitutes the essence of the trick.—Dr. Andrew Wilson, in the Illustrated London News.

How Diamonds Cut Glass.

It has been ascertained by a series of experiments that a diamond does not cut out glass file fashion, but forces the particles apart, so that a continuous crack is formed along the line of the intended cut. The crack once begun, very small force is necessary to carry it through the glass, and thus the piece is easily broken off. The superficial crack or cut need not be deep; a depth, according to fine measurements, of a 200th part of an inch is sufficient to accomplish the purpose; so that the application of much force in using the diamond only wears out the gem without doing the work any better. Numerous stones, such as quartz and other minerals, when ground into proper form, will cut glass like a diamond, but are not as valuable for that purpose, lacking the requisite hardness, and soon losing the sharp edge necessary to make the operation a success.—Ex

Mother and Child.

One night a tiny dew drop fell Into the bosom of a rose; "Dear little one, I love thee well; Be ever here thy sweet repose."

THINGS OF VALUE.

A great mind will neither give an affront nor bear it.—Home. For Cholera Fellows' Speedy Relief stands ahead of all other Preparations. The less we parade our misfortunes, the more sympathy we command.—Dewey. Fellows' Dyspepsia Bitters is not a new remedy. It has been known in this country over fifty years. The test of true manhood is what it is willing to suffer for others. And what shall I say more? for the time would fail me to tell of all the virtues of Putnam's Emulsion. God never sends people to fish in deep water who have broken nets. If you would save your wife trouble and enjoy a cheap but delicious dinner take home a package Kerr Evaporated Soup Vegetables. Well, Sarah what have you been doing to make you look so young? Oh, nothing much only been using Hall's Hair Renewer to restore the color of my hair. What man is will always depend upon what he believes God to be. Commercial Citric Acid is an ingredient of most Ginger Ales. Wilmot Royal Belfast is comprised of pure Jamaica Ginger Lime juice, Spa water and other pure ingredients. For scrofula in every form Hood's Sarsaparilla is a radical reliable remedy. It has an unequalled record of cures. I have drank a small quantity of the Wilmot Spa Waters, during a few weeks and am greatly relieved of dyspepsia for which I believe it a specific if preserved in N. W. W. TUFTS, Annapolis Co.

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