POLITICAL NOTES.

A Glance at the Leading Measures Carried in the House of Assembly of New Brunswick. from the Year 1854.

By G. E. FENERY, Fredericton, N. B.

No. 3.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS.

L. A. WILMOT.—This gentleman was one of the leading champions of Responsible Government, and the greatest orator or America—far ahead of most of his con- effect—not that Fisher was incapable of temporaries in the two hemispheres, and scarcely behind the ablest of them. The wishes, for he was a debater of no mean listened to many of the great orators of took in hand, which is not always the case England and America, political and clerical; and for holding an audience spell was a man of dignified, stately presence, bound and breathless, as it were, moving and never failed to impress the House by them at will to tears or to mirth, Wilmot was matchless. A fine resonant voice, commanding figure, and piercing eyes, were prominent among his natural gifts, while his "action" was all that a Demosthenes could have claimed for it. He was equal to any demand made upon him, whether as a political debater, a platform lecturer, or a Sunday school speaker-in all these capacities he shone brightly and effectively, delighting all and infusing himself, so to say, in the whole corporeal essence of his listeners. He was a man of strong impulses, emotional, impulsive, nervous-not at all times, even in critical moments, reliable in judgment-if at times violent in speech, it was like smoke from the fire, it soon passed off into thin air, for his heart was in its place, and his kindliness of disposition ever manifest. He was the son of Mr. Wm. Wilmot, at one time a member of the House of Assembly; and it is said that this gentleman was expelled from the house, oz motion of one of the members on the charge of being a Preacher, which meant that as Mr. Wilmot did occasionally hold forth as a local preacher in one of the Churches, he therefore came under the prohibited ban providing that minis-



ters of the gospel were ineligible to a seat in the Legislature; and it was positively inconsistent and shocking for a "dissenter" and "lay preacher" to represent the people on the floors of the House in violation of the laws of the land and against the peace of the King's most excellent Majesty, his crown and dignity. But the absurdity of the whole proceeding is contained in the fact that there was no law whatever jusifying the expulsion-for the law was, as it is now applicable to regularly ordained Ministers of the Gospel, and not to laymen, no matter how often they may preach God's word to erring mortals. The resolution of course was carried, and on leaving the House the hon gentleman pointing to his dittle boy standing in the lobby, (the subject of this sketch, then about 12 years of age) said to the Speaker: "Sir, the time will come when that lad (pointing to him) will see that justice is done to my memory, by vindicating on the floors of this House the rights that belong to all classes in this Province, and when all churches shall be placed on one footing." Here was pro-phecy fully fulfilled, equal to old Testament times. L. A. Wilmot lived long enough to turn the tables altogther upon the supporters of the old one-sided system, and give effect

to the denunciation and hopes of his father. R. L. HAZEN.—This gentleman is here reterred to as the great political antagonist of Wilmot-the two having been pitted against each other-for and against Responsible Government-in the earlier stages of the agitation. Though not the equal of Wilmot as an eloquent speaker. he was a foeman not unworthy of the steel of the former. It was said of Hazen that he never took very great interest in work, but somehow or other those lazy men manage to hold their own and hit hard, and exhibit the fruits of much study, when the Hazen always exhibited great strength of mind and will whether at the Bar or on the floors of the House; and was perhaps the most formidable opponent with whom Wilmot had to contend. Hazen was backed up by all the old Tory influence of the day, especially the old office holders of Fredericton and their adjuncts; and yet he was not so much opposed to the principles of Responsible Government, as he was to the danger he thought of carrying those principles too far-although the old folks generally said they believed in Responsible Government-but it was -for the details meant the surrender of Departments should be in the House. found this gentleman a true man. so the advocates of the old system fought hard, but the fates were against them.

R. L. Hazen is remembered as a fine it was income a product of the cousin, L. A.

good old stock he seemed to act as though it was income and it w humble—as a lawyer he was high-minded, on—never stopping to think that the world and far above the petty tricks of the spec- was in motion, and that what might have which no member was more highly respected—if what was considered by his opponents to be of him on the wrong side of politics he was known to be honest in

doing full justice to his own views and



CHARLES FISHER.

the force of his utterances. Privately he was not always to be understood—there was a non-commitalism about him, even in | ing is "Good morning"; in Austria, "Serimportant matters, which many of his ous"; in South Germany, "Gruss Gott" friends could not account for, as though he ('God greet you'), whilst the Roman cathalways felt that his best counsellor was olic parts of the country have adopted the it would be all the safer for his side. It was the want of this frankness which caused the most political capital to be made against | ever, amen." In modern society the older him at election times. On the floors of the House, however, he was outspoken and manly-his language lucid and fluent, and his appearance in debate commanding and statesmanlike. As remarked in a former paper, to Wilmot and Fisher are the people of New Brunswick mostly indebted for the free government of which we are in

JOHN H. GRAY.—This gentleman was perhaps the most polished speaker on the loors of the House, as though he had prepared his speeches over the midnight oil, and set his phrases to music, and his periods to deep, meditative thinking, every point falling into the right place, with the accuracy of a compositor's hand at the distribu-tion case. It is not meant, however, that this gentleman's style was due to such like preparations—it was natural to him—for his impromptu replies to opponents being of equal polish, forbid any such supposition. His matter, however, was at times unequal to the occasion-and although he spoke well, his points and arguments failed ofttimes to convince. Mr. Gray was a Conservative of the old school, as will more fully appear in tuture letters. He was very gentlemanly in his manners, and of a forgiving disposition towards those who criticised his course in the House, as the

WM. J. RITCHIE.-Probably, and without disparagement to others, this gentleman was the ablest lawyer that this Province has ever known. In saying this, however, it cannot be said that good lawyers make the best of statesmen; for it is no uncommon thing in many Legislative bodies-at present and in times gone by-for laymen of great abilities to be great leaders. Ritchie's power was more conspicuous at the Bai than in the Forum-in the former he was invincible and soon took the lead, or in a few years atter his arrival from Annapolis—1837. And yet as a debater Ritchie was formidable and persuasive, not by his captivating style, but by the force of his arguments and the way he wrestied with them; and as he could not be tripped, himselt keeping a strong toothold, his blows told with unerring effect upon his unguarded adversaries, and brought them to terms to their own great amazement. Although no rhetorician, no opponent in that line, or even the best satyrist, could daunt or throw him off his guard for a moment. He and John H. Gray could seldom see alike in politics—while the former was a Liberal. the other was a long distance on the other side of the line. Although Ritchie was brought up in an ultra Tory camp, he had the good sense when he crossed the Bay and made himself acquainted with the way in which the wind was setting in this Pro-vince, to hoist the Liberal flag, and from that moment he sailed boldly torward, and finally brought up into a safe harbor as the successor of Judge Street. Those who understood Ritchie found in him a very were the disturbing elements in their opposition—in fact it was everything companionable, confiding man. Those who did not understand him thought him stiff and unapproachable, and with all his liberal professions a great Tory at heart. Neveroffice on the forfeiture of the confidence of theless we can only judge politicians by the House—they meant that the Heads of their actions, and by this standard I always

They meant, in short, too much against | R. D. Wilmot.—This gentleman was them to be regarded with complacency, and | the very antipodes of his cousin, L. A. R. L. Hazen is remembered as a fine, it was incumbent upon him to perpetuate stalwart, gentlemanly man, in manners as | that stock politically unimpaired, without well as looks. Although to the manor regard to time, or circumstances, soil or born, he was always approachable by the climate, or surroundings as time might go ial pleader. On the floors of the House | suited fifty years ago in matters of trade, the same dignity was manifest, and for was all impracticable in later years. He St. John City was a free trader, while the

other member, our present subject, was the very opposite, so that St. John at this time had two strings to its bow in the Legislature—that is to say, St. John as on other occasions went to the polls with one eye open and the other shut. But withal Wilmot was a conscientious man, a better debater than speaker, but his statements were always accepted with respect, it not approval. In his early days "Duncan Wilmot" as he was always called, was a power in the House, and seemed to be master of his theories. He never slunk behind a corner to CHARLES FISHER.—If Wilmot was a get out of the way of expressing his great orator, Fisher was a great Constitu- opinion on all occasions. What he tional Lawyer. Each was essential to the advocated he believed in without hypocother, as companions in arms on the side risy or ostentation in expressing himself. of the Responsible Government army. It It was as common to team "Gray and Wilused to be said that Fisher made the balls mot" on the same side, as to say "Fisher that New Brunswick has yet produced. In and Wilmot fired them, meaning thereby and Wilmot" on the other side. For both his prime (in the forties) he was the peer that while the former drew up the resolu- it might be truly remarked "hunted in of any of the great rhetoricians of Europe tions, the latter spoke to them with telling couples." There were many other such couplets in our political days, but not so prominent, not having the same Siamese ligaments. The advance of Responsible writer, in his fifty years' peregrinations, has order and fully understood the subject he Government left Mr. Wilmot and his principles and confreres far in the rear, and had it not been for the new era which ushered in "Confederation," it is very questionable whether a single member of some of them attained after the principles they so stoutly opposed became settled facts in our Provincial Government,

> These sketches will be continued at intervals, or from time to time, as these letters proceed.

HOW THEY ARE POLITE.

In This Country Some of Them Should be Called Cranks.

The ancient Greeks used to say to each other at meeting and parting "Claire" ("Rejoice") The Romans, when meeting said "Ave" ("Greeting"); on parting, 'Vale" ("Remain in health"). Among the Israelites, intimate acquaintances kissed ach other's hand, head and shoulder. The fashion of uncovering one's head, did ot come into vogue before the 16th or 17th century. In many German countries it is Abdul Hamid has shown himself to be the customary to kiss a lady's hand, whereas in Italy this custom is confined to intimate triends. Russian ladies reciprocate the hand kiss of a gentleman to whom they may show a certain degree of partiality by kissing him on the forehead.

In Protestant Germany the usual greetnimself, and the least he divulged to others | formulæ recommended by Pope Benedict Christ," with the response, "For ever and expression, "Gott betohlen" (French, 'Adieu"), used at leavetaking has been changed to "Empfehle mich" ("I commend myself to your good wishes"). In the mining districts you are saluted with "Gluckaut" ("Safe return to bank").

A Russian throws himself on the ground at his master's feet, clasps his knees, and kisses them. A Pole bows down to the ground, or kisses his master's shoulder. A Bohemian kisses the lower hem of the garment worn by his superior. At meeting, a says, "Sdraffsvuitye" ("Good on parting, "Do Svidanya" (French, "Au revoir"); when separating tor a lengthened period, "Proshtceaitye" ("Pardon"-i.e., for leaving you so soon)

An Englishmen salutes his friend with 'How do you do? Good bye; Farewell.' Similarly the Dutchman, "Vaar wel"; and the Swede, "Far val." A Frenchman says, "Bon jour! Au plaisir" (i.e., "De vous revoir"). An Italian, "Buon giorno Addio! A rividerci!" A Spaniard, "Buenos dias! Adios! Hasta la vista!" (French, "Au revoir"). The Turk tolds his arms across his breast and bows his head towards the person whom he salutes. The common Arab says: "Salem aleikum" ("Feace be with you"), he then lays his hand on his breast in order to show that the wish proceeds from his heart.

The Hindus in Bengal touch their fore-heads with the right hand and bend their head forwards. As a mark of profouud obeisance they place their right hand first on their breast, then on the ground, and lastly on their forehead, whilst calling themselves "obedient slaves" of the object of their adulation. In Ceylon a man will prostrate himself on the ground before his superior, incessantly repeating, the names and titles of the latter. In the East, and more especially among the Mongols, most styles of salutation bear the impress of a servile disposition. In China if two persons on horseback happen to meet, the inferior dismounts and stands waiting for the other to pass. In Japan a man of low degree must in the presence of his superior, take off his sandals, thrust his right hand into the left sleeve with measured tread, and exclaim in tones of abject terror, "Augh augh!" ("Do me no harm")

The Abyssinians drop on their knees and kiss the earth. In saluting a woman the Mandinkas take her hand, put it to their nose, and smell it twice. The Egyptians stretch out one hand, then lay it on their breast, and bow the head. Among the less civilized tribes of the Old World, say the Kalmu cks and in Polynesia, the cus tom of rubbing noses is pretty general. Perhaps the most extraordinary form of salutation is to be found in Tibet, where the natives put out their tongues, gnash their teeth, and scratch their ears.



NOT A BAD OLD MAN.

The Sultan Does Not Live Up to His oppor

tunities for Evil. The Sultan of Turkey has lived to be more than fitty years old without signing more than one death warrant-and that. too, when a wave of his hand could consign a person to instant death. He alone of all the Sultans has made a long and serious study of his country and its laws. In the face of the greatest financial difficulties he has organised a well-equipped and efficient army, commissioned by excellent officers. He has fostered private and public enterprise wherever it could be done.

English fireplaces or American stoves are beginning to be used in Turkey, while over the Bosphorus, cable cars and tramways run through such streets as can be

The daily lite of Abdul-Hamid is one of simplicity and toil. He rises very early, and after his prayers takes a very light breakfast, and is then ready for business. He works six days in the week until three o'clock, and then walks, rides or drives, or sometimes hunts a little. On Friday, which is the Turkish Sabbath, he goes to the the "old school," including John H Gray, would have reached the eminance which of great pleasure to the people, as there is generally a military display and a sort of review of the troops as he passes.

The Sultan is noted for his simple and unaffected piety. The fasts, one of which lasts forty days, are just as rigidly observed by the Sultan as by the poorest laborer in the realm. The imperial cortege on the principal day of the forty-day fast is an impressive and beautiful sight. Each regiment has its own colors, and the brilliant accoutrements of the soldiers and caparisonings of the horses make the scene rich in color and splendid in numbers and mili-

tary precision. It has been said of Abdul-Hamid that he is a timid man, living in constant fear of assassination, weak and irresolute of character, and without executive ability. There are tew sovereigns in these days who do not fear dynamite or the assassin's knife; but instead of being weak and irresolute, strongest and most resolute Sultan who has ever reigned. He has instituted reforms that none but he had dared attempt.

In disposition the Sultan is most compassionate, and loves children. There is no sovereign in Europe who is better instructed than he about current events all over the world. He has travelled extensively. In person he is a noble and imposing man, with splendid dark eyes, which look at one straightforwardly and honestly.

He is well built, with a soldierly bearing. but is pale, and wears a serious and rather sad expression. There is an atmosphere of great refinement about him that is very attractive, and one feels that the destiny of the empire is safe in his hands, for he is quietly labouring for the best moral, national, and industrial welfare of his people.

When He Stopped Payment.

In a civil action on money matters the plaintiff had stated that his financial position was always satisfactory. In cross examination he was asked if he had ever been

'No," was the answer Next question was; "Now, be careful; did you ever stop payment?' "Yes," was the reply.

"Ah," exclaimed the counsel,"I thought we should get at it at last. When did that After I paid all I owed," was the answer.

Flowers of the Nations.

Some of the flower badges of countries and cities are as follows: -Athens, violet: Canada, sugar maple; Egypt, lotus; England, rose; France, fluer-de-lys (lily); Germany, corn-flower; Ireland, shamrock leaf; Italy, lily; Prussia, linden; Saxony, mignonette; Scotland, thistle.

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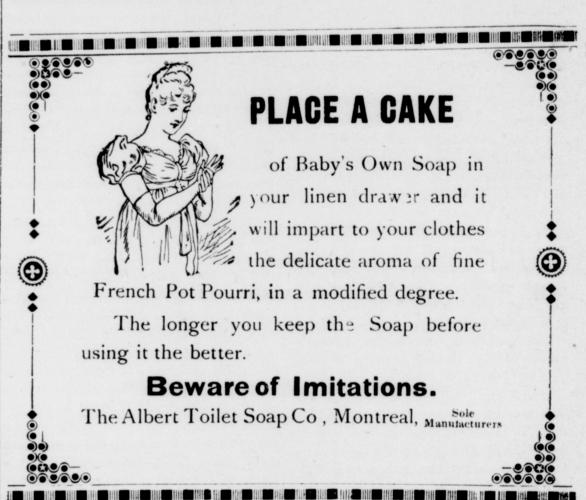
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