

POLITICAL NOTES.

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

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

No. 7.

The Election Bill—Vote by Ballot First Time in New Brunswick—The Old Tory Element Dies Hard—King's College Again—The Prohibitory Liquor Law—A Great Revolutionary Measure—Rum, Rum, Rum, the Cause of All the Trouble—The Measure Finally Carried.

The discussion of the Election Bill turned chiefly upon the ballot. The 'old school' Members contended for what they called the manly British viva voce principle—that secrecy was dangerous and undermining in any case, especially in returning Members to Parliament. The Reformers, on the other hand, could not say enough in praise of the ballot. It was the only guarantee for the purity of elections. Both parties wrung the changes out of their respective favorite theories—each side drawing deductions from prepossessions which had grown into their understanding to such an extent, that they felt that their religion was wrapped up in the question.

Mr. Street (Ex Attorney General) followed Mr. Fisher. He was opposed to "the ballot," also to extension of the franchise; and gave his reasons at considerable length for his opposition. Messrs. Gray and Ritchie also spoke at length, the former for two and a half hours condemnatory of the general principles of the Bill, and the latter about the same time, combating each separate argument advanced by Mr. Gray, and in support of the measure. Mr. End remarked that the people of the Province would bless the present House for giving them the ballot, which would relieve them from tyranny and ledger influence. The essence of the ballot, he said, is protection to the voter, and therefore it should be made as secret as possible.

Some members contended that the franchise was too liberal—the Bill went too far in all its provisions; while others declared that it did not go far enough, because it did not provide for universal suffrage. There was thus a variety of opinions to be weighed, investigated, and reconciled, in order to convince the House and carry the measure; still the Government knew their strength and their abilities to carry whatever they might introduce.

On the 2nd March, Mr. Street moved an amendment to the first section of the Bill, to the effect that the old law should be continued, which led to a fresh round of speeches and a dreary reiteration of the old arguments.

As the debate, however, narrowed down to a single point towards the last day, the opposition diminished, and so it was maintained by those who were considered to be the main supporters of the former Government, and who still held seats in the House. The Bill was finally passed without amendment—28 to 10. This then was the introduction of "the ballot system."

The Commissioners appointed during the previous Session to inquire into the condition of King's College handed in their Report, which contained a number of suggestions, "good, bad and indifferent," for the improvement of the Institution—all which formed at the time quite a topic for newspaper comment. As the subject is not considered of sufficient importance at the present day, it is merely referred to here, in order that those more immediately interested may know where to find the information. Some of the suggestions were considered to be crude and amusing, exhibiting a want of understanding in particular respects of the demands of a first class educational establishment.

[NOTE.—As the discussion was quite exciting, any one desirous of reading it will find it in the Morning News of March 7, 1855.]

March 3rd. Hon. Mr. Tilley brought in a Bill to prevent the importation and manufacture of and traffic in all Intoxicating Liquors in this Province. Received and laid on the Table; and one hundred copies of the Bill were ordered to be printed.

As this was a most important measure and led to revolutionary consequences, it is here copied for the information of the young Temperance reader.

The first clause declares that whoever shall manufacture, import or bring into the Province, sell or keep for sale any liquors, shall, on the first conviction, forfeit the sum of ten pounds, and on every subsequent conviction suffer imprisonment for not less than three or more than twelve months. The liquor shall be forfeited and destroyed.

The Sessions in any County, or the Council shall annually appoint an agent in each Parish, to import, buy and sell liquors, for medicinal, mechanical, chemical, or sacramental purposes, and no other.

It shall be the duty of every Revenue Officer to search all vessels coming into the Province, and any vessel or conveyance in which liquors illegally imported shall be found will be forfeited but "such a reasonable quantity of liquors as are required for ship stores found in any vessel arriving at any port shall be exempted from seizure." The master of any vessel having liquor on board, the owner or consignee will be re-

quired to make report on oath, as they now make entries under the law for the collection of the Revenue, &c. All liquors illegally imported shall be dealt with as smuggled goods.

Any peace officer—that is, Sheriff Deputy Sheriff, Constable, or person authorized to execute a warrant—may with or without a warrant, search for or seize liquor, only making report to a Magistrate if a seizure be made; and any officer neglecting or refusing, when requested, to search for or seize liquors, shall forfeit a sum of \$10.

Any person, though only in the employment of another, importing or selling liquors, or in charge of liquors illegally imported, shall be dealt with as if he were the importer or seller.

Any Justice may issue his warrant, or when liquors are seized may condemn them if illegally imported and order them to be destroyed and impose the penalty on the party importing or selling; and the condemnation of liquors shall be a bar to any action or claim against the person seizing.

If a person make information on oath before a magistrate, that he believes liquors intended for illegal sale are kept in any place, the Justice shall issue his warrant, the place shall be searched, and if liquors be found the person named in the warrant shall be arrested, and if the person so arrested fail to prove that the liquors are not intended for illegal sale the liquor shall be destroyed. If the owner be unknown a notice to be published after the seizure, and no claimant appearing the liquor is to be destroyed.

If an appeal be made and the judgment be confirmed, the appellant shall pay double penalties and costs.

Payments for liquors sold in violation of the Act shall be void, and the amount so paid shall be recoverable. Sales, conveyances, mortgages, &c., given in whole or in part on account of liquors so sold, shall be void as between the purchaser and seller.

A peace officer shall apprehend on view any person found in a state of intoxication in any public place, and detain him in custody until he is sober, when he shall take him before a Magistrate, and the person shall on oath give information of the person and place of whom and at which he may have purchased any liquors within twenty-four hours of the period of the arrest; and if he refuse to give information, the Justice shall commit him to goal until he give the information, or until he shall by such Justice be discharged.

Able speeches were made on both sides in the discussion of this Bill which occupied several days. That some of the grounds taken in opposition to the Bill may be seen, a quotation is here made from Mr. Boyd's (Charlotte) speech. He said he had experience both ways. He referred to 40 years ago, when the population was much smaller than at present, and from the Journals of the House at that time produced statistics to prove that there were 223,000 gallons less of intoxicating liquors imported in this Province in 1854 than in 1814, and from American authority that more crime and drunkenness prevailed in the State of Maine since the introduction of the Liquor Law than before it. Mr. Boyd said he wished to be distinctly understood, that if the Temperance party would go for moral suasion only, he would never drink another glass of liquor again—but if they insisted on saying "You shall, and you shant," he would as distinctly tell them that he would drink three glasses every day.

The ball was opened in earnest on the 19th. The "ladies gallery" was crowded with the beauty and fashion of Fredericton. Both lobbies under the galleries were likewise filled to their utmost capacity with the rum and no-rum portion of creation,—all interested in watching the progress of a measure that was intended to stop their "daily supplies," through means of a legislative edict. The Hon. Mr. Tilley led off in a long speech explanatory of the provisions of the Bill and the great necessity there was for passing it, for the mitigation of a formidable growing evil, that had been doing more for a number of years in eating out the moral vitals of the country than all other evils combined. In referring to the cholera the previous year in St. John, Mr. Tilley stated that about 1300 persons fell victims to that awful scourge, and that only two temperance men were taken away. He also read from the Report of Dr. Waddell respecting the physical debility, wreck and ruin that were occasioned by intemperance. And that in the Provincial Penitentiary out of forty-seven inmates no less than thirty seven were incarcerated through the effects of intemperance. He also referred to a Petition brought in that morning against the Bill, and to meet the objection of losing £29,000 out of the Treasury. It might be stated that from £50,000 to £70,000 or £80,000 went out of the country to foreigners who could have no interest in the affairs of the Province, having no stake in the country. He said that it must sound very musical to the honorable Members' ears to hear every day dropping into the Provincial Treasury, as profits on Alcohol—but let them put before them the sight of four human beings dropping every two days into eternity, by the intoxicating cup—and who would consent to such a sacrifice of human life at such a price?

The general arguments used against the measure, as gathered by reading all the speeches in opposition, may be thus stated. It was unfair to measure the effects of alcoholic drinks by a temperance rule, and condemn the practice as destructive to life. People cannot be legislated into habits of sobriety. All summary laws were mischievous in their tendency, would aggravate rather than allay the evil they were designed to cure. People's habits could not be rudely broken in upon. If the Upas

tree was poisonous it was still the growth of ages, and could not be uprooted, unless by the most violent means, in a day. It would take time to destroy the young fibres that had spread themselves far and wide. So long as the influence set their faces against all interference with the indulgence of their appetites, no restrictive law could have any effect. People must be educated into a knowledge of the evil which bad habits generate. The slavery to appetite, like negro slavery, cannot be successfully abolished without years of probation and trial.

On a motion by Mr. Street that the Bill be postponed for three months, the House divided—Yeas 17; Nays 21—which was also the final decision upon the Bill when it was carried—although it was alleged by some of the newspaper reporters that one or two honorable gentlemen were not in their places when the final question was taken.

Although introduced by the Provincial Secretary, it was an open question, and not a Government measure. Some of the opponents of the Bill at the Westminster Gazette writes to show that it is not at all likely. The correspondent once dined in South America, and he thinks there were thirteen at dinner, and before the year was out the boat of one of them, a clergyman, struck on a sunken rock in the rapids of the Potaro river, and the clergyman was drowned. "Incantations," says Voltaire, "combined with a certain quantity of arsenic, will kill a whole flock of sheep." Dinner parties of thirteen, combined with a certain arrangement of sunken rocks will kill a whole synd of clergy. We fear Mr. Furniss will not be convinced. The correspondent's induction is not complete. Many men, for instance, have dined absolutely alone and have subsequently perished. Sometimes before the year was out, even after a dinner tete-a-tete, with no skulls or ladders about them, men have been known to die violent deaths within the year. What the scientific mind wants is an exact tabulation of the relative perils incurred by eating meals in companies of various sizes. All that it gets at present is a proof that dining thirteen at a table does not result in immortality on earth. Of course the harmfulness of the practice is equally unproved.

Thirteen to Dinner.

On Saturday Mr. Harry Furniss, the caricaturist, and a hundred and twenty-nine others sat down in London, thirteen at a table, and defiantly dined. They had waiters with the evil eye, or at least a cast, walked under a ladder by way of grace, broke a mirror, put skulls on the table—in fact, underwent every inconvenience and annoyance that freedom from superstition could suggest. They are now awaiting death, and though we hope that Mr. Furniss, at any rate, may be left off for some time, a correspondent of the Westminster Gazette writes to show that this is not at all likely. The correspondent once dined in South America, and he thinks there were thirteen at dinner, and before the year was out the boat of one of them, a clergyman, struck on a sunken rock in the rapids of the Potaro river, and the clergyman was drowned. "Incantations," says Voltaire, "combined with a certain quantity of arsenic, will kill a whole flock of sheep." Dinner parties of thirteen, combined with a certain arrangement of sunken rocks will kill a whole synd of clergy. We fear Mr. Furniss will not be convinced. The correspondent's induction is not complete. Many men, for instance, have dined absolutely alone and have subsequently perished. Sometimes before the year was out, even after a dinner tete-a-tete, with no skulls or ladders about them, men have been known to die violent deaths within the year. What the scientific mind wants is an exact tabulation of the relative perils incurred by eating meals in companies of various sizes. All that it gets at present is a proof that dining thirteen at a table does not result in immortality on earth. Of course the harmfulness of the practice is equally unproved.

Minister's Mistakes.

There have been many innocent mistakes made that contributed much to the amusement of mankind. Among them is one told of a certain clergyman who left a notice in his pulpit to be read by the preacher who exchanged with him. The minister neglected to denote carefully a private postscript, and the people were astonished to hear the stranger end by saying: "You will please come to dine with me at the parsonage after service." Another amusing story is told of a minister. The reverend gentleman was inclined to be absent-minded, and while walking one day met a young lady whose face seemed familiar to him. Taking her to be one of his parishioners' daughters, and not wishing to pass her without notice, he stepped forward and, cordially shaking her hand, entered into conversation. After comparing notes about the weather he had at last to confess:—"Well, I know your face quite well, but where have I seen you before?" "Oh! please, sir, I'm your new parlour-maid!" was the reply.

In southern Europe the peasants always eat fruit in its natural shape and never think of treating it to doses of sugar, salt or other seasoning. Around Naples and in Malaga the people bite a hole in the orange, suck out the juice and then throw the orange away. Some American people often do the same, but the American must try his hand at improving nature, so he puts a lump of sugar in it. An orange planter thinks such a thing a desecration.

One of the first covenants that every young man ought to make with himself is that he will never run in debt.

Transmitting His Order. He entered the restaurant with the air of a man of elegant leisure, declined to take a seat which the head waiter indicated, but, after a survey of the room, chose one which suited him. He sat down, smoothed his napkin across his knee, adjusted his eye-glasses, and carefully read the bill of fare from beginning to end. Then he glanced towards the waiter, who stood silent at his elbow, and by that sign indicated his readiness to give his order. The waiter slightly inclined his right ear, and the diner, said:—"Ham and eggs!"

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"You may get me a slice of nice ham, neither too thick nor too thin, very little fat on it, and broiled over a slow fire. Also give me two eggs, new laid, fried in butter, on one side only. Be very particular to get them prepared properly."

The waiter strode haughtily away to the kitchen and yelled to the cook:—"Ham and eggs!"

Movable Bedrooms.

In one of the old castles of Northern England visitors are shown two rooms which are connected with each other by a singular mechanism. Each room is adjoined by an alcove, used as a sleeping-room apartment, and the floors of the adjoining alcoves turn on a pivot in the centre of the partition wall. This ingenious device was the invention of one of the ancestors of the present proprietor, who was somewhat of a wag, and found great pleasure in frightening and mystifying his guests. When one had gone to bed in the green room and the other in the blue, the floors were turned on their pivots, and on awakening the visitor found himself in strange quarters, with clothes that were not his own. It is said that this fun-loving lord lost a rich inheritance by thus disturbing the restful moments of a wealthy aunt, who never forgave the trick her nephew played upon her.

The Old Clay Pipe.

There's a lot of solid comfort In an old clay pipe, I find, If you're kind of out of humor Or in trouble in your mind. When you're feeling awful lonesome And don't know just what to do, There's a heap of satisfaction If you smoke a pipe or two.

The ten thousand pleasant memories That are buried in your soul Are playing hide-and-seek with you Around that smoking bowl. There are many festive moments: You're at peace with all the world, And the panorama changes As the thin blue smoke is curled.

Now you cross the bridge of sorrows, Now you enter pleasant lands, And before an open doorway, You will linger to shake hands With a little and girlish figure That is coming through the door; Ah! you recognize the features; You have seen that face before.

You are at the dear old homestead Where you spent those happy years; You are romping with the children; You are smiling through your tears; You have fought and whipped the bully; You are eight and he is ten, Oh! now rapidly we travel, You are now a boy again.

You approach the open doorway, And before the old armchair, You will stop and kiss the grandma, You will smooth the thin white hair; You will read the open Bible, For the lamp is lit you see, It is now your hour for bed time And you kneel at mother's knee.

Still you linger at the hearthstone; You are loath to leave the place, When an apple core is in progress; You must wait and dance with Grace. What's the matter with the music? For the lamp is lit you see, And the thousand pleasant fancies Vanish promptly with the smoke. N. Y. Sun.

The Swine and the Flower. I shrank to meet a mud-encrusted swine, And then he sneezed to grunt in accents rude, "Hah! Be proud, for in this lot of mine, Behold the source of richness for your food!" I fled, and saw a field that seemed, at first, One giant mass of roses pure and white, With dewy buds and dark green foliage nursed, And, as I lingered o'er the lovely sight, The summer breeze, that cooled that southern scene Whispered, "Behold the source of Cottole!" M. E. WILKIN.

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