

POLITICAL NOTES.

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

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

No. 5.

The Hon. John Ambrose Street, Attorney General in Defence of the Government—Curious and Mixed State of Things—The Government Defeated—Members of the New, and First Party Government—Hon. Daniel Hanington, Speaker—The Reciprocity Bill.



HON. JOHN AMBROSE STREET.

The Attorney General (the Hon. John Ambrose Street) made a most able and forcible speech in answer to the lucid speeches in opposition. He complained that the Opposition should have taken the present opportunity to try and defeat the Government, when the Legislature had been called together for a special purpose—to consider the Reciprocity Treaty only. The Government were therefore taken by surprise and consequently unprepared for attack and defence. In regard to the question of the Judges and Sir Edmund Head, this was all settled before he took office, and therefore he could not be held accountable. It had been made a grave charge that His Excellency had compelled his Council to crouch at his feet. Now what did His Excellency do? How did his Council quail before him and lie prostrate at his feet? The Governor had sent a Message to the Council, which they disapproved of, and upon their remonstrance it was withdrawn. The hon. member's conduct (Mr. Fisher) upon this point had been exceedingly disingenuous, and he (Hon. Attorney General) would say that although not then a member of the Government, or in any way connected with it, and therefore not called upon to justify their measures at that period, yet from the hon. member's own statement, and from the despatches and documents appearing in the Journals of the House, he could not find that His Excellency Sir Edmund Head had, under the peculiar circumstances in which he was then placed, acted wrong, or unconstitutionally, according to Responsible Government; nor did he believe the course Sir Edmund then took was the cause of the hon. member's boasted resignation, which, if the hon. member had been sincere, should have been sent in immediately that he was rejected by the people at the general election of 1850, or failed to secure his return, instead of waiting till nearly six months after that period. On the 25th October, 1850, the Council, after two or three days deliberation, handed the Governor the following Minute:

Government being held responsible for the sins of their predecessors. He protested against the doctrine; but if the House decided contrary to his opinion, by the passing of the amendment, let them watch and see how the principle would be carried out by the new Government. How could they take in any member of the present Government—if that doctrine prevailed—without making themselves responsible for the very sins they now charged the present Government as being guilty of? He admitted that the Government as a whole were responsible for whatever the leader of the Government might say in his place, but he did not hold himself accountable for what the Government had done before he joined them. When Sir Edmund Head consulted his Council upon filling up the vacancy on the Bench, the hon. member (Mr. Fisher) differed with the majority of his colleagues as to the number of Judges requisite in the province, and wrote a letter on the subject to Earl Grey. He knew of the Governor's Message of the 23rd of October, and if he did not like it he ought to have resigned at once, especially as he was not a member of the House at the time; but now he endeavored to throw the blame off his own shoulders upon others. * * *

He was always glad to see good feeling prevail in the House, but the hon. mover of the amendment, and other hon. members of the Opposition had extolled some of his colleagues in the Government, and attacked him, laying all the charges at his feet as though he alone was responsible. The hon. mover of the amendment had disclosed his acrimonious feelings. He (Hon. Attorney General) stood in his way. He wanted his silk gown, and had strung together a tissue of personal charges to injure him with the country, but he defied his efforts and his machinations. He (Hon. Attorney General) knew nothing about the difficulties between the Governor and his Council previous to his joining the Government; he had neither seen nor heard anything like dictation since he joined. He did not pretend to be a great politician; but it low cunning, manoeuvre, political tergiversation, and a readiness to accomplish his ends by any and every means, constituted a politician, he (Hon. Attorney General) was both glad and proud to say that he was not one—(hear, hear,)—although others may lay claim to that honor.

The above references are considered all that is necessary for the purpose of conveying to the reader the style of the attack and defence, and probably the arguments used, in this great debate—a debate which led for the first time in the history of the Province, to an entire overthrow of the Government, and shortly afterwards to the formation of the first strictly party Government ever inaugurated in New Brunswick.

On the 28th, the division took place upon Mr. Fisher's amendment to the address:

- For Mr. Fisher's Amendment: Messrs. Fisher, Messrs. English, Brown, Tibbitts, Ritchie, Lunt, Johnson, Ferris, Smith, Ryan, Harding, McLelean, Tilley, Stevens, Macpherson, Cutler, Hatheway, McPhelim, Steadman, Sutton, Landry, McNaughton, McAdam, End, Gilmour, Botsford—27, Connell.

- Against the Amendment: Messrs. Street, Messrs. Taylor, Partelow, Gilbert, Wilmot, McLeod, Gray, Boyd, Hayward, Purdy, Montgomery, Rice—12. Mr. Kerr absent. The Speaker (Mr. Hanington) in the Chair.

This, as above remarked, was the first great party triumph—the real commencement of "Responsible Government," for it led, as will presently be seen, to a Government being formed, which, so to speak, sprang directly from the loins of the people without the admission of a solitary individual whose associations had been in any degree identified with the old party. The size of the majority, two to one took every body by surprise, and it only showed how fragile were the ligaments, and little to be depended on, which kept the old Government in existence for so long a time; for there were some who now voted with the Opposition who had been all along steady adherents of all Governments. Had there been no Special Session, which was an unfortunate occurrence for the party in power, the Government might have held their offices until the regular time of meeting—in February—and perhaps by that time might have satisfied some of their wavering supporters that they were not as bad as represented by the Opposition; and consequently the majority against them would probably have been less—if any. This "special" occasion, however, came too suddenly upon the Government; and they were put hors du combat before they had time to think that the danger that threatened and the catastrophe that followed were at all imminent.

The new Government were formed after several days' negotiation, and was announced to the House as follows:—

- Hon. CHAS. FISHER, Attorney General; Hon. J. JOHNSON, Solicitor General; Hon. S. L. TILLEY, Provincial Secretary; Hon. Mr. STEEVES, Surveyor General; Hon. Mr. RITCHIE, Executive; Hon. Mr. BROWN, and } Councillors. Hon. Mr. SMITH, } without office. The Hon. Mr. HANINGTON—Speaker.

But now a fresh clap of thunder burst over the heads of the new Government—a declaration of war was made by and from a quarter the least to be expected. Mr. J. R. Cutler, who made one of the longest and most appropriate speeches on the side of the late Opposition, became the champion of the no doubt disappointed aspirants for office, and presented a series of Resolutions in condemnation of the new creation, based upon the following grounds:—1st, because

Mr. Kinnear had not been considered as on the road to the Bench, in place of another gentleman, whose claims had been urged on political grounds; 2ndly, because no Roman Catholic had been taken into the Government; 3rdly, because an insult had been offered to the Agricultural interests, by not placing a representative man in the Council; 4thly, the violation of Constitutional principles by appointing a member from the upper branch to the office of Surveyor General.

This resolution was debated for some time, and thrown out 19 to 9.

The "Reciprocity Bill" was committed, discussed and passed. A congratulatory address to the Queen for the great victory of the Alma, was agreed to by both Branches; and the Legislature was prorogued on the 3rd November. Thus in ten days the whole fabric of ancient rights and exclusiveness was destroyed, and a new Government, consisting mostly of young men, were installed in their places. It was a strictly party composition—called Liberals—or Responsible Government advocates—the system thenceforward to be carried out in its essence, and no longer to be used as a term of pretence to delude and bewilder the unwary. All eyes, friends and foes alike, were directed towards the new Government. Friends expected much, while opponents ridiculed the notion that any good could possibly come out of men, deficient in the training and education which so eminently befitted the old school of Politicians to govern.

The Heads of Departments on going back to their constituents were re-elected.

In my last letter I was made to speak of the special session for the consideration of the Reciprocity Treaty, as having been called for 1852! It should read 1854. Again, the picture of Mr. Connell was prematurely introduced and was not to appear until his time came to go into the debate in which he was concerned.—G. E. F.

JIM HUTCHINS BOY.

Why a Citizen Thought the Law Did Not Reach His Case.

"There is a law against killing boys, isn't there?" asked Mr. Jones of the magistrate.

"Yes most of the boys, anyhow."

"Well, then, the law ought to do something to protect citizens against Hutchins, boy, so's nobody'll be obliged to kill him."

"What's he been doing?"

"Why, Hutchins' boy, lives next door to me, and his boy Jim makes life miserable for my family. That boy, on Tuesday—let's see, was it Tuesday we had such a gale? Yes, Tuesday, he was flying a big kite, and when it was high up and pulling like a steam-tug he tied the string to the terrier's tail! I'll kill that boy of Hutchins' yet before I've done with him! And so, of course, the dog, off he goes about ten miles high! And then he started due south like lightning, and for all I know he's in Cape Colony by this time, and still moving."

"Have you advertised for him?"

"Advertised? Thunder! No! No use. And the next day Jim Hutchins' boy, he gets another kite and goes up on his roof to fly it. And then he has to go fooling about until he gets on my roof and up on my chimney, and then, somehow, I don't know how, all of a sudden he comes head foremost down the flue! Holler! You never heard a boy holler as he did! I thought to fish him out with a clothes-line and a slipnose; no use; I left for him with a fishing-rod; too far down. I poked up from below with a stick; too far up. I wanted to blow him out with powder; but his mother threatened to sue me if I did."

"Finally, we tied a man to a rope, let the man down, pulled, and brought him up as black as ink from head to foot; and then old Hutchins said he thought the least I could do would be to pay for the boy's clothes, because the flue was so dirty!"

"Did you pay for the clothes?"

"Of course not; but only two days later that boy got out down by my stable with his mother's oil can, and I think he must have emptied it in among my cow-feed. Anyhow, all I know is that my cow milked oil for the next milkings, and ever since we have been burning her milk in our lamp of an evening."

"It gives a beautiful light, but makes an inferior quality of butter and is unpalatable to the baby, who has been confined to oatmeal gruel. The next cow I get'll be one that'll toss any boy who comes in the yard, now mind me."

"I'll send a policeman round to warn the boy to behave," said the magistrate.

"All right," said Mr. Jones; "but he won't mind. Sudden death is the only thing that boy wants, and he'll get it if he isn't careful."

THINGS OF VALUE.

If we have a friend we thereby acquire a new motive for keeping ourselves strong and cheerful in order not to afflict him with our unhappiness.—W. R. Alger

I was Cured of a bad case of Grip by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Sydney, C. B. C. I. LAQUE.

I was Cured of loss of voice by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Ya'mouth, CHARLES PLUMMER.

I was Cured of Sciatica Rheumatism by MINARD'S LINIMENT. BURIN, Nfld. LEWIS S. BUTLER.

No wonder churchyards are haunted. After he has been kicked and cuffed all his life, a fellow's ghost can't have a span of vanity if it doesn't enjoy a quiet sit down in the moonlight in order to read the epitaph.

The Early spring tries Weak Lungs, which should be fortified by a liberal use of Putner's Emulsion—only 50 cents a bottle, at all Druggists.

Almost all kinds of labour are paid twice as well in Paris as in the departments of France; bakers in Paris make 67 pence a day, in the departments 35 pence; carpenters 83 pence and 38 pence respectively.

The bee works harder than most people would believe. There are about sixty flower tubes in every head of clover, and only a tiny morsel of honey in each. In order to get enough sugar for a load the bee must visit about 6,000 different flowers, and each bee makes on an average twenty trips a day.

In Sitka, when an Indian wife has lost her husband by death, she goes into mourning by painting the upper part of her face a deep black.

ADVENTURES OF A HEAD.

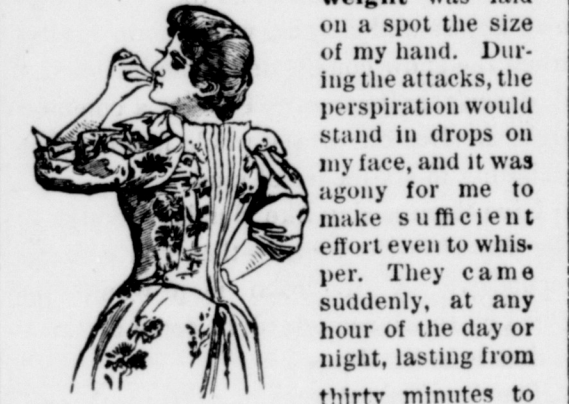
It Originally Belonged to the Famous Cardinal Richelieu.

The restoration of the Church of the Sorbonne has revived a discussion as to the authenticity of the head of Cardinal Richelieu, which, together with the other remains of the great statesman, lies in the splendid mausoleum erected by Girardon nearly two centuries ago. In 1793 a gang of revolutionists broke into the mausoleum, with the intention of scattering its contents to the wind, and, one of their number cutting off the head with his sword, showed it to the mob. Thanks to the intervention of Lenoir, the body, which was also in a wonderful state of preservation, was spared; but the head, or what was presumed to be the head, was ultimately recovered, and, after passing through several hands, was in 1866 officially presented to M. Victor Duruy, then minister of public instruction, who had it united to the body and restored with considerable ceremony to the old place in the mausoleum at the Sorbonne.

The head had been borne away one hundred years ago by a draper named Cheval, who had among his regular customers the Abbe Nicolas Armez. He showed the head to the priest, and some time afterward, dreading that its possession might get him into trouble, he asked him to accept it. At first the Abbe Armez declined the offer, but, thinking that the relic might fall into worse hands, he finally consented. Some years later the priest gave the head to his brother, then mayor of Plourivo, in the department of the Cotes du Nord, whose son, then elected a deputy in the reign of Louis Philippe, brought it with him to Paris. Deputy Armez, in 1840, lent the head to M. Bonhomme, a painter, who had been asked to execute a portrait of the Cardinal, and whose picture still hangs in one of the rooms of the council of state. It was in 1866 that, after negotiating with M. Duruy, M. Armez presented the relic to the State, and on the 15th of December in the same year it was solemnly deposited in the mausoleum at the Church of the Sorbonne. Now the question as to whether the head is, after all, authentic, is again being raised. The balance of evidence is in favor of the above story being true.

"For Years,"

Says CARRIE E. STOCKWELL, of Chesterfield, N. H., "I was afflicted with an extremely severe pain in the lower part of the chest. The feeling was as if a ton weight was laid on a spot the size of my hand. During the attacks, the perspiration would stand in drops on my face, and it was agony for me to make sufficient effort even to whisper. They came suddenly, at any hour of the day or night, lasting from thirty minutes to half a day, leaving as suddenly; but, for several days after, I was quite prostrated and sore. Sometimes the attacks were almost daily, then less frequent. After about four years of this suffering, I was taken down with bilious typhoid fever, and when I began to recover, I had the worst attack of my old trouble I ever experienced. At the first of the fever, my mother gave me Ayer's Pills, my doctor recommending them as being better than anything he could prepare. I continued taking these Pills, and so great was the benefit derived that during nearly thirty years I have had but one attack of my former trouble, which yielded readily to the same remedy."



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