

uses, for the Roads and other internal improvements. I opposed the LOANS made to individuals and Corporate bodies in the City of Saint John, upon the principle that however I might have sympathised with the individuals personally, I was of opinion they had no more claim upon the Provincial Treasury, than any inhabitant of the country, whose saw mill or barn might happen to burn.

I opposed the Bill which provided for the payment of the Legislative Council, on the ground that it was not only humiliating to the character of such a Body, but that if the Province for fifty years past had found men qualified, who would perform the duties gratuitously, much more could it find them now, when there was so great an increase of individual wealth.

Esteeming the free exercise of the Elective Franchise to be an object of paramount importance, I introduced a Bill, in substance a copy of the English law, to shorten the polling and take the votes of the Electors in the different Parishes at one and the same time. In no other way in my opinion, can the purity of Elections be preserved, and unless the Electors are vigilant in the exercise of their rights, they cannot expect an independent representation.

Selected to represent you shortly after Sir John Harvey came to the Province, I looked in vain throughout the whole of his administration, for the introduction of those measures of improvement, which the whole country anticipated on his arrival. Taught to esteem it the first duty of every good subject to support the government, I should have cheerfully afforded him my humble aid in his administration, had it been as liberal and useful in practice as it was in profession.

In the spring of 1841, Sir William Colebrooke was appointed his successor, and in his person and office the Parent State effected an important amendment in our constitution, by separating the Military from the Civil Departments, plainly evincing the determination to maintain a uniform system in all these Provinces, and to extend to their inhabitants the enjoyment of all the blessings of the British Constitution. When Sir William assumed the Government, he must have discovered that the finances of the Province were seriously deranged. At that time the public mind was greatly excited. Meetings were held in different Counties, and petitions numerously signed, praying a dissolution of the Assembly. Without adopting that course, His Excellency waited till the usual period of assembling the Legislature, and then submitted sundry measures for the better regulation of our internal affairs. Approving generally of the principle of these measures, I supported them, and assisted to render their details as perfect as possible.—Some of them were open to serious objections, and contained provisions inconsistent with their spirit, and so perfectly absurd, that their framers must either have been ignorant of their real objects, or opposed to their principle. As great efforts have been made to deceive you with regard to the real character of these measures, I shall briefly refer to two of them, and the others shall form topics of discussion at the various polling places.

It was proposed to establish an efficient AUDIT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS. You are aware that the accounts of the Provincial expenditure have hitherto been audited by a Committee of the House of Assembly; and that while large sums of money have been annually expended either by Members of the House or their friends, it was not possible that such an Audit, however strict, could be above suspicion. To remedy this evil, it was proposed to establish as in England, an office of Audit, independent of the Legislature, still leaving to the Assembly the supervision of that audit by a Committee. This is one of the NEW MEASURES, as they are sometimes called; and how it was possible to comply with the wishes of the public in any other constitutional manner, I know not. I have never expended a farthing of the Revenue myself; but I am satisfied the interests of the people, and the independence of the Representatives, indispensably require the adoption of this course.

THE INITIATION OF THE MONEY GRANTS. It must be evident to every impartial observer, that the mode of appropriating the Revenue requires improvement; and that without some reform in the present system, it is impossible permanently to restore the public credit, or place the finances of the Province in a healthy condition. Deeply impressed with the growing magnitude of this evil, and unwilling to attempt a remedy by any doubtful experiment which might lead to the total prostration of all credit, I advocated an alteration in the mode of originating the supply, in conformity to the practice of the Imperial Parliament. I would only agree to transfer the right of initiation to the Crown in connection with what has been designated in the Colonies, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, which must be fully introduced before any such plan can be safely and successfully acted upon. This is one of the fruits of our glorious Constitution, which this Province has never yet enjoyed, although in full operation in the neighbouring Colonies. It is that form of Government which has prevailed in England since the Revolution, which led to the accession of the House of Hanover to the Throne of these Realms; and which has saved it from subsequent Revolutions.

Its transplantation into this Province is necessary to fill up the measure of our constitutional rights. It simply requires that the high offices of the Provincial Government shall be occupied by the most active men of business, enjoying the confidence of the majority of the Representatives; instead of the old practice of the most lucrative situations being continued as heir looms in certain families. Upon this plan the internal affairs of the Province would be carried on by an Executive Council, composed of the Heads of Departments, a majority of whom, should have seats in the Assembly, all bound to resign office, when they failed to command public approbation for their measures. I am aware that this doctrine may be distasteful to a class of persons who have brought up their children in the belief

that they had the exclusive right to all the offices of value in the Province; but it is a part of the British Constitution, of which their united influence cannot much longer deprive the great body of the people. This system will place the Representative of the Sovereign in his true position. Instead of being ruled by a little knot of individuals, responsible only to themselves, and compelled to incur all the odium of advice he supposed to be good, sustaining the Vice Regal character, and charged by the Sovereign to administer the government of her faithful subjects, according to their well understood wishes, he will rise above the petty jealousies that may from time to time distract the Province; and acting under the advice of a really responsible Executive Council, force them at all times, in their own office and character, to endure the consequences of such advice. In anticipation of the introduction of this system, and to place the officers of the government under an efficient popular controul, I introduced a Bill to vacate the seat of any number of the Assembly, who should accept office until he ascertained the opinion of his constituents, upon the propriety of the measure; this, though rejected in the first instance, on the third reading, by the united votes of the Executive members and Supervisors in the House, finally passed, and is now part of the law of the land.

GENTLEMEN,

I have briefly reviewed some of the leading incidents in my parliamentary career, which the published Debates and the records of the Legislature will verify. Conscious that I have most diligently discharged the duties of your Representative, and that I can give a faithful account of every act of my Legislative stewardship, I shall take no other method except this public avowal, to correct the many misrepresentations, which the mistaken zeal of over heated partizans circulate on the eve of an election, till I meet you on the Hustings.

If you think you can select a Representative, who will attend with greater fidelity to your Legislative affairs, one who will study more closely your local interests, and urge them with greater zeal, I will most cheerfully retire to the peaceful quiet of private life; ever willing to promote your interests to the extent of my humble abilities. Should you again honour me with your confidence, I shall adopt the same course that I have hitherto pursued; and if in the faithful and fearless discharge of the duties of a Representative, in addition to the approbation of my own mind, I obtain the good opinion of my fellow countrymen, I shall have secured the richest legacy which I desire to bequeath to my children.

Yours, &c.

CHARLES FISHER.

Fredericton, December 12, 1842.

To the Freeholders of the County of York.

GENTLEMEN,

HIS Excellency having carried into effect the principle of the Quadrennial Bill, by dissolving the Assembly, I shall have the honor of appearing before you, for a fifth time, as a Candidate for the Representation of the County.

The increasing duties of Legislation, have rendered the Office of Representative one of great labour and responsibility; and as the coming Session will doubtless be one of the most important ever held in the Province, the Representative Branch will require all the wisdom, prudence and discretion which the Provincial Constituency can select; for their proceedings will determine whether the Country at large must continue to bear for an indefinite time, the depression which is now weighing it down in every quarter—or whether fresh energy and activity shall be infused through every branch of industry and trade.

Gentlemen, I am entirely at your service; and if you should favour me with your confidence, I shall serve you to the best of my ability. But if it is your pleasure that I should no longer act as your Representative, I shall cheerfully submit to your wishes, and hope we may part friends; for you have the assurance from me, that whether in the Assembly or not, you may always command my services in any way that can advance the general welfare and prosperity of the County, either in an Educational, Agricultural or Commercial point of view.

I have the honor to subscribe myself

Your obedient servant,

L. A. WILMOT.

Fredericton, December 7, 1842.

To the Freeholders of the County of York.

GENTLEMEN,

I purpose to appear as a Candidate for your suffrages at the approaching Election, and I beg to assure you, that in coming to this determination, I have been influenced by the urgent entreaties of many esteemed and influential Individuals of your number, residing both in Town and Country.

Should you honor me with your confidence by returning me to represent you in the General Assembly, I can only say that my best exertions shall ever be given to the promotion of your interests.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

Fredericton, 9th Dec. 1842.

ASA COY.