

POETRY.

Selected.

MEETING.

By Geo. Menzies.

As we hasten, on and on and on—
Away through life and away,
We meet with joy and love and flowers,
Inviting us to stay:
We give the joy and anxious wish,
And the love a gentle sigh;
We pluck a few of the fairy flowers
And bid the rest good bye.

We meet with bright and blessed things,
And things so unholly too;
With faces wearing demon smiles,
And bosoms that are true;
Among the famished, notless crowd
Of unremembered men,
We meet with those who waken thoughts
That will not sleep again.

We meet with those whose memory
Like a nightmare on our sleep,
Breathes o'er us ever and anon,
A bitter curse and deep;
Some write their names upon our hearts;
Some leave a few faint traces
Of parting words and blank regrets,
And once fainter faces.

Yes, even the friendly greeting of
A kindly wayfarer's eye,
Met only once, may long be felt,
And loved and cherished on.

We met with one whose heart from ours,
No chance no change can sever—
The heart that flows with quenchless love,
For ever, and for ever;
But one shall be the meeting yet,
And one the meeting day,
When the trumpet of God shall tell the dead,
That time hath past away.

Crowland, U. C., Nov. 1883.

THE FALSE ONE.

I knew him not—I sought him not—
He was my father's guest;
I gave him not one smile more kind
Than those I gave the rest.
He sat beside me at the board,
The choice was not my own;
But oh! I never heard a voice
With half so sweet a tone.

And at the dance again we met,
Again I was his choice,
Again I heard the tender tone
Of that beguiling voice;
I sought him not—he had me forth
From all the fairest there,
And told me he had never seen
A face he thought so fair.

Ah! wherefore did he tell me this?
His praises made me vain;
And when he left me how I long'd
To hear that voice again!
I wondered why my old pursuits
Had lost their wonted charm,
And why the path was dull, unless
I lent upon his arm.

Alas! I might have guessed the cause;
For what could make me shun
My parents' cheerful dwelling place
To wander all alone?
And what could make me braid my hair
And study to improve
The form that he had deigned to praise,
What could it be but love?

Oh! little knew I of the world,
And less of man's career;
I thought each smile was kindly meant,
Each word of praise sincere.
His sweet voice spoke of endless love—
I listen'd and believed,
And little dreamt how oft before
That sweet voice had deceived.

He smiles upon another now,
And in the same sweet tone
He breathes to her those winning words,
I once thought all my own.
Oh! why was she so beautiful?
I cannot name his choice,
Nor can I doubt she will be won
By that beguiling voice.

COLONIAL.

QUEBEC, JAN. 5.
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
OF
LOWER CANADA.
FRIDAY 31st JANUARY, 1884.

Report from the Committee on Contingent Accounts.

Mr. Huot, the House in Committee, moved the concurrence of the Report of the Special Committee, and a Resolution to the effect that a Bill be introduced to make good the sum of seven thousand pounds advanced last year by the Governor in Chief and left unprovided for, in consequence of the failure of the Supply Bill. He considered that this would enable the house to proceed to business, and pay the expenses of the present session. Although he did not wish to justify the message, which he must consider as extremely out of place, and as showing no proof that there had been any good faith or desire to advance the affairs of the country, nevertheless he looked at the question in its natural light, as one of pure right, and in that sense, he did not think the house could refuse to fulfil its promise. This was the only way to do our own duty, and avoid complaints against ourselves. When we had done so, and fulfilled what was justly due from us, a desire for the welfare of the country, and for its tranquility, commanded us to put ourselves above all suspicion of obstinacy, hauteur, and antipathies, and throw upon those who ought to bear it, the great responsibility, which our refusal to pass a bill would place at our door.

Mr. Papineau. Called together in the name of our Sovereign, a name the most respected and the most dear to us, and more dear than the name of the law. The proclamation of Matthew Lord Aylmer, representing His Majesty, has convoked us to deliberate under the forms provided, on the interests of the government as well as those of the people, of the Province as well as the humblest of its subjects. He has not called us together to laugh at us, but to receive our frank and free deliberations.

opinions. We had at first no reason to believe that our meeting was a mere mystery, that he was playing with us and with the most sacred laws of the constitution, when he informed us at the opening of the session, that he would do all in his power to advance the progress of the public business and the public welfare, while at the same time, from the bottom of his heart, he wished by his refusal of the contingent expenses, to throw every obstacle in the way of, and paralyze all the labours of the session. Never had a governor compromised himself in such a manner; never had men been found so timid, so complaisant, so blind to the conduct of the Executive, as to attempt to excuse its errors, palliate its faults, sacrifice their rights and their honour, and place themselves even beneath the Council. Was their ever an example of such a refusal, and such a complacency. Go back to the most odious administrations, and point out such an example of degradation as that now submitted to us. But had the special committee been chosen in a way to meet the views of the house, and was not the position of some of its members unfavorable to the freedom of its deliberations? It was observed, in the first place, that of the sum of seven thousand pounds asked for, two thousand and five hundred pounds are due to Neilson & Co. as printers, and that one of the committee, by his connection with one of the parties, could not consent to a measure which infallibly deprived them of the recovery of this sum, and risked the bankruptcy of a firm, where he perhaps saw his own creditors. The rules of the house and of justice had then been violated by the interference of a member of the committee indirectly interested, a man, who because he deserved formerly the friendship and confidence of the Canadians, ought to be the more on his guard against suspicions of partiality and personal interest. This member being then nothing by right in the committee, the division is no longer from four to three. Let us next examine the words of the report itself, how justice has been done, and how the faults of the Executive have been palliated. Two or three precedents are drawn from the Journals of the House; if these have been selected in good faith, all that they implied had not been seen. The refusal of 1805, was one for the small sum of twenty-five pounds it is believed, for printing expenses. If the house conceived it had a right to ask that sum, it might at least be told that it was not for its contingent expenses, but expenses foreign to them. It might too without experience have been in fault not to pursue its rights. But as regards the contingent expenses applicable to its daily expenditure, no authority in the world had a right to control them, nor to refuse us wood and candles. The committee ought also to have stated the precedent occurred when a tyrannical government shut the mouth of the house by an immediate prorogation, and that the house neither could protest against nor resist the injustice. But in the present case, it was at the commencement, on the first day of the session that they were told: I'll make you dependant upon me. I will enslave you; you may call witnesses, employ servants, but they will ask in vain for their pay, and the bread which they are waiting for; you will do the public business only on credit; or force those who labour for you to compromise themselves, involve themselves in debt or ruin. It was with these intentions that we were called together, and the committee does not or will not see; does not understand it, and submits to every thing. If the Governor does not want a session, let him not get rid of it by indirect, cowardly and disgraceful means. He may prorogue us, and this was a legal, just, constitutional and honest means. But he does not dare to follow this course; he has too much cowardice, and feels his own weakness and his own faults. The committee was equally cowardly in falling into his trap and enslaving themselves to his will. It was very different in England, when one of the House of Stuart, who wore the crown, and thought he wore it by divine right, ordered sofas for the house which had come to him, and said in the presence of his courtiers, "the representatives of the people, when invested with their authority and sitting in parliament are sovereigns, free like myself; and independent of all authority in the world in their deliberations." Here, a Governor thinks he has a right to control the independence of the House—a right to be exercised only when he resolves it, and submits to public opinion, by a general election, which is decisive of the differences. It was only in such a case when he assumed proper responsibility, that he deliberates and does what befits him. Could we not call him to an account? Let us show him the hands of his witnesses, stained with the blood of Canadians; let him be informed that he has approved of these acts of violence, and that he has instructed his Crown Officers to decide upon them. Justice may still be had; but it must be observed who knows if it is not a fear of truth, the remorse of his own mind, which have made him adopt this course. But it was sufficient to see what documents the committee had before it, to see that it did not act independently. What did the Committee say, but that the Governor had long been in the habit of advancing monies, on an Address of the House. Does it show that any inconvenience arose from this? That the Governor wants to be more scrupulously respectful to the law? No; it says that distrust, and the fear of taking certain monies, had made him act so. But had his predecessors ever lost any thing by the same course? This distrust was insulting to us, and disgraceful to him.

The man who does not know how to wear the responsibility of his office, ought not to humiliate, and render himself vile, by accepting it. It was because he, Lord Aylmer, avows his incapacity in his own Message. It was said that a Bill would relieve the Governor of all responsibility; but it was forgotten, that in former disputes, a tyrannical Governor had been four years without payment of his advances, Civil List having always been rejected; that Governor Craig, who had imprisoned former men—that Lord Dalhousie, who had supported public officers in their malversations—who had himself plundered the public Treasury—they had not felt this anxiety, this fear, this degradation. The Message, more disgraceful to its author than to ourselves, avows Lord Aylmer's own fault, and that he can no longer trust the House; that a frivolous alarm, belied by his own quotations, prevents him from believing our word. But refer to the Message, and it will be found, that it requires a Bill for the year's expenses, and not the Bill we are now wishing to give him. And will you succeed in getting it passed?—Those who know what is going on, have lately told you in the Quebec Gazette, that the seventeen hundred pounds voted last year to Mr. Viger, would be a reason to refuse it. The House was then stopping all business, to relieve the Governor from his painful anxiety; and you fall into his trap, and give him an opportunity of getting rid of you. Could it then be said that we had failed in our word, when it was the Governor that had done so, and refused to do the public business? We had met our word last year, by voting a Bill of Supply; but the Council rejected it—and there lay the fault. Was it impossible that the child of his own creation was not subservient to him? Yes, it was; and it was the Governor himself that prevented the House from meeting its promises; and he has shielded himself by too transparent a covering, not to be discovered. We are then discharged from all obligation, and this argument is frivolous. The Governor has nevertheless, no reason to fear since we promised to vote by an Address the sums he asked. Could he, indeed, make honest persons believe that he would suffer by complying with our wishes? He avows himself, that he has disposed of twenty-five thousand pounds, in virtue of those Acts which he mentions, and which, he pretends, place those sums in his hands. He does not know what he is saying; he has not seen, he has not read what he cites. He says he has twenty-five thousand pounds levied by Acts which only produces sixteen thousand pounds. He does not hesitate to pay, when it is for his favourites, or for himself. In England, the contingencies, which amount to eighty thousand pounds, and all the public expenses, are paid without appropriation of any kind; here after a vote so solemn, there are still doubts. When twenty-five thousand pounds are paid; when it is said that there shall be but one Provincial Aid-de-Camp at two hundred pounds a year, and when two at four hundred pounds each, are at appointed; when it is declared, that the Speaker of the Council shall have only the emoluments of one office, and yet he is paid all, because he is a friend; then and in these cases, there can be no hesitation.

Here Mr. Secretary Craig delivered a Message.

Mr. Speaker then continued—It is not necessary to enter into the details on all the items of the Civil List of last year, which the Governor has paid, by violating the law, and the appropriations. If there were no means of bringing him to account, (as Mr. Neilson remarked before the Committee of the House of Commons,) at least, why seek to please now? As to himself, he had not put his consistency into his pocket; he avowed that the Governor was responsible for what he had paid without law, and for what he had refused to pay. How was justice to be got, when he pays the Judges—when he corrupts and buys their consciences. Suppose we prosecuted the Receiver General, for paying without law, and allowing the public chest to be robbed;—it was true, that if he had not consented, there would have been no plunder; but what chance had we of obtaining justice? He cannot allege, that he is bound to know nothing of the legality of the warrant. The accounts were got up without rule, and full of contradictions. Last year we asked two thousand pounds for our contingencies—the Council had forestalled us. There was favouritism, and the Bill of the Committee would only further increase it. It was, in fact, recognizing that there was another authority than the house, to control the expenses of the different branches of the Legislature. (The hon. Speaker went at great length into the question of finances and accounts, and concluded by asserting that the Receiver General ought to be sued for violation of the law.) Our eyes must now be open;—the welfare of the country is at stake;—it might have been shown on the first day of the Session; and the Governor was bound in good faith, seeing this, to send us back to our constituents, to decide his and the Council's pretensions, and its reform. He had taken indirect means to force us to withdraw. By a Session, we have come into contact with all the authorities. He hoped, that in this contest with the Colonial and Metropolitan authorities, we shall do our duty. The patient and haughty Mr. Stanley, who has enslaved Ireland, his own country, by a barbarous and inhuman law, will wish to impose on us something similar; his ambition is to vast; for him not to fall or rise soon. Had we adjourned, delay and time would have favoured us, and brought about the ruin of this violent Minister. But necessity obliged us to defend ourselves. He hoped all would be present on the 15th; love of country, and love of justice, were paramount to every thing.

But, it will be said we have not the means of meeting our daily expenses. Well let us multiply the adjournments, sit by day only, and let the remedy to the great evil be at once proposed. What was the use of these little Bridge Bills, &c.? might they not be put off till the 15th? We ought to give up ourselves wholly to the great measure. The state of the country did not require our attention to those trifles. We must declare by Message, that, convoked in the name of the law, he cannot put obstacles to our sitting; that he need not fear, when the most odious of his predecessors have lost nothing; and let those who are waiting for their bread implicate him. A motion, to postpone the question, to the 15th, must then be made. He would himself, move the Resolutions impeaching the author of these difficulties; this man who has caused us to lose confidence in the English Ministry. No other redress is left us, than to apply to the people of Great Britain and supplicate them to ensure us the British Constitution. Let us declare, that we cannot do any business till the fifteenth; and that the Governor refuses the unappropriated funds in hand, at his risk and peril.

Mr. Guzy was induced to rise during the silence which followed the Speaker's long speech, only to throw back the insulting and unjust expressions used against a Committee of the House. His oratory was flowery, but not without thorns, which pricked friends and enemies alike. There were persons in the Committee who, if they had not his talents, were his equals in independence or character, who had never received anything, will never receive anything, and who never debased themselves by a submissive complacency. We were taxed with cowardice, but that might better be said of those who charged others with it. The Governor might be ignorant, unfortunate, and ill-disposed even. He did not attempt his defence; but he was entitled to be heard before being condemned. The term cowardice could never be applied to a brave soldier. The Committee were personally attacked for their labours. What proofs had been given. He left untouched the personal interest with which Mr. Neilson was charged. The public was before the House and would learn that seven persons have been sullied by abuse without a single proof in a speech of two hours. Were we to be told: follow me, do like me, think like me, we had acted with him often; but he wished to have discretion left him and not bend our neck to the yoke.—Why not allow every one to be the guardian of his own honor. The Committee had also neglected proper researches. It had not had the lights of Mr. Speaker; what a misfortune that he was not called before it. All this would have been avoided; another report made Fear would have no doubt mastered us. On his part he denied all the accusations which these things implied. It might be urged that the house had discharged by its vote last year the Governor of all responsibility; yet the bill not having passed, there was no discharge by law, which we could not pass by ourselves. Must the other branches obey us, and must we treat as traitors and renegades all those who are not of our opinion? Even in the United States such principles would not be admitted, but treated as absurd. The proof that the Executive controlled the monies was that we could not prevent it from doing so. We must keep our promise, and if the Council prevent it, our good intentions are to be repeated, and by a separate bill do our duty still, and leave on our assailants the weight of responsibility. It was not mistrusting a creditor to ask him for his debt, and the Governor had merely done so: If we got offended at such a claim, others ought to get offended too. When reading the epithets which the speeches of this house apply to the mother country, the Governor and government what could not be thought? They overshoot the bounds of propriety, are fitted to irritate the distinctions among the population, and might lead one day to scenes of blood. Others were not more inexpressible to reproaches than we were. It was said the Governor asked us for money by bill, it was we who wanted it, and we had pledged ourselves to make it good to him. This was the rule of the constitution. It had been alleged that the public monies had disappeared, this was another gratuitous assertion without proof. It was alleged that witnesses and servants were to be paid; this was a strong reason to pass the bill. In conclusion, he thought he had done his duty with deliberation, and that he must repel the accusation against the Committee by saying that he still thought he would act over again as he had done.

Mr. Papineau would not stop to refute arguments which contained nothing to refute. His words were misconstrued when it was said that he had used abusive language, and had declared that the Governor was not a brave soldier. He had simply analysed a public document and said that it was not got up with the attention and enquiry it required. If such were abuse, no public document could be examined. There was no abuse in saying that the report ought to be more detailed. What had the courage of the Governor to do with the question. It is his civil character that we have to do with. He confessed that for the general expenditure the consent of the three branches was necessary, but no body had a right to interfere with the contingencies of the House. His observations on the finances were treated as gratuitous, but figures did not lie. How could £25,000, be paid from a revenue of £16,000. These documents show how blindly the Governor has acted. Were these personalities; could they lead to bloodshed. Were they said because the Governor was of another origin than him-

self. His duty whether English or not, was to do justice. He could alike refuse the report of a Committee. Where would otherwise be the liberty of speech and the right to differ from others. (The hon. Speaker continued to explain himself and to reenter into arguments.)

Mr. Bedard felt no surprise at the proceedings of the hon. Speaker; they were in conformity to his views of this Session. He ought however to leave to those of a different opinion some chance of justifying their opinions. The only course was to keep our words if we wish the Governor to trust us again. We were told that our measures were degrading. But the proposal to present a new address and obtain a new refusal would be more degrading. The only thing to be considered was to meet our word, and he trusted the house would do so.

Mr. Kimber. Then it is wished to have a Session, whether or not; and suffer, on that account, every description of humiliation. We were told, that the Bill will pass in the Council; this would be but a new humiliation.

Mr. Bedard.—It is not enough to say, that we must suffer humiliation. It must be shown to exist.

Mr. Papineau.—Humiliation is better felt than described. Those who ask, are those who cannot feel it. What! there would be no humiliation in submitting ourselves to the caprices of the Council, in adopting a useless course, where, after endorsing our rights, we should be less advanced than ever? The Governor only gave the Royal Sanction to Bills at the close of the Sessions; and what shall we do then? A new address must be presented, and a new refusal given; and is there no humiliation in this? He had said that we ought no longer to sit and deliberate so; and leave the Governor the responsibility.

Mr. Neilson had received a little injustice, when he was told that he was interested. If this had been the case, he would not have sat on the Committee. In fact there was no question of gaining anything for his son; his claim was due, and there was no danger of losing it. Another little injustice was done, in throwing suspicions on the solvency of a trading firm, of which such things ought not to have been said. He thought that the firm was not on the eve of bankruptcy; and if it had any creditors, that they need not be alarmed. These were mere puerilities, which he forgave, and would be forgotten he hoped. It was alleged, that our monies were dissipated; if they are, let us not participate in it. Let us pay a debt we have contracted, and meet our word, particularly in favor of those to whom we are opposed.

Mr. Huot thought we ought to have been equally scrupulous on the subject on the rights and rules of the House, in 1823, when a similar refusal was made. This refusal had not occurred, as was alleged by the hon. Speaker, at the close of the session, but a month and a half before the prorogation; and nothing was done. He read the Journal in confirmation of this allegation.

Mr. Young was of opinion that the Message was not proper, but he was very certain that the Governor had not written it, but was ill-advised by new councillors, which it was important the House should know. He himself knew him as well as if he saw him at the bar of the house. He was nevertheless of opinion that the Governor had a right to ask for a bill, and that the control of the monies belonged to him. He then entered upon some financial statements, and showed that the Speaker's assertion about sixteen thousand pounds only being at the command of the Government to pay twenty-five thousand pounds was altogether unfounded.

Mr. Papineau considered that Mr. Young's principles were more dangerous than those of the new advisers. After some further financial explanations between Mr. Speaker and Mr. Young, the Committee adopted the motion to refer for the consideration of the report to the call of the house.—Yeas 35: Nays 32.

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