was linked a form of unsightly deformity; alas! the fair lady was a *hunch-back*! In the unnatural elevation and prominence of her shoulders one might read the cause of the world of suffering that looked out from those wonderful eyes—that hovered like a shadow over her smiling brow, and traced in lines in that expressive mouth. A resemblance to Lucy Burton might easily be traced in her features, but there was a grace in her bearing which her sister had never possessed, and the unmistakable impress which severe mental suffering, but seldom fail to leave, was not to be seen in the meek countenance of the anxious watcher. Her sorrow, was one that could not [illegible]—one that would haunt the beholder like a sad, troubled dream.

"They tell me that you and uncle have found an object of charity," she said, in a low tone. "I only came home ten-minutes ago and I hastened in to see her."

Just at that moment, a piteous moan startled her, and she turned towards the couch where a pale, chinese face, s rouded in a tangled mass of black tresses, lay half-buried among the snowy pillows.

"How beautiful!" the deformed Gertrude began to say, but her voice faltered, and clasping her hands, as if in a spasm of sudden pain, her cheek grew ghastly in its strange pallor.

"Ashley, Ashley, I will never go back," shrieked the maniac; "save me the grave rather than a home with you! I am your bride, but tell me if you can," and the girl laughed in wild distance.

Gertrude Burton recoiled, as if an arrow had dash into her heart, and leaning against the bedpost for the support, gazed earnestly upon the sufferer.

"Gertrude," said the kind sister, "you should not have come here; these sights is too much for so tender a creature as you." The deformed shook her head sadly, and drawing near the maniac, bent down to look upon that now burning face.

"How strange it is!" she muttered, half audibly, and her slight frame shook with suppressed emotion. "Lucy, do you know who this is? She leaned slightly forward, in her intense anxiety to hear her sister's reply; and the head resting on the maniac's brow, shook like an aspen leaf.

"No," said Lucy, "she is an entire stranger. We found her sitting on the parapet of the old bridge, in that wild spot they call the Haunted Vale, and so in pity we brought her home. She has been wedded against her love, I know, by her wild ravings."

There was a long pause, and then, sending her sister out of the room on some trifling pretext, the deformed droped over the raving Grace. For some moments she soothed her with her mellow tones, and then, looking steadily in her face, asked:—

"Do you not sometimes sing in public?

"Ah! yes sighed the girl, in an interval of sanity, "but I never shall sing again; my heart is broken!"

"And did you," continued Gertrude, vainly endeavour to speak in an unfaltering tone, "did you sing in the Opera of Lucia de Lammermuir, last winter in New-York?"

"Yes!" was the reply; and the maniac forgot for a time her sorrows: "yes, and that night among the shower of bouquets that fell around me, was one, of the first gift of Percival Clinton, and I have kept it as a sacred thing. It is withered now, like our hopes." The deformed drew back with a shudder.

"My God! What fortune threw this girl in my way!" she muttered, and as she spoke, cheek neck, and brow grew crimson—the Siddonian lip curled, and the black eyes flashed, till you would not have known them for the orbs that had been so full of sadness a moment before.

"It was on that night he first saw and loved her!" she said, in slightly ironical tone. "Can it be that he has dared to forget me, and all his solemn vows!" and bending over the couch, she scanned the maniac's features with the closest scrutiny. "Beautiful!" she murmured; "beautiful in face and form. She has no deformity to render her repulsive; no wonder that I should have been forgotten for such a superb creature," and a tear fell upon the brow of the maniac. The sadness was only momentary; presently dashing away the tears, the lady said, earnestly:—

"You love Marcus Ashley—"

"Love him!" echoed the girl, "I tell you would rather have died, than wed him. It was my mother's wish that made me a miserable bride, and mine. Lady, I love Percival Clinton with all my soul, and because I cannot forget him—" She paused, with a look of unutterable grief, and a moan that was eloquent with woe.

"Poor girl! then you are to be pitied rather than hated! God for give me for the hate with which I was beginning to regard this maniac."

Just at that moment, Lucy Burton came stealing into the room, and turning hastily from the bedside, the deformed Gertrude crushed back the grief in her heart, and in a few moments, again bent over the restless Grace, with the calm, reserved smile that was habitual to her.

(CONCLUSION NEXT WEEK.)

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

(*Reported by Mr. Hooper.*)

House of Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, April 19.

At an early hour this day the house went into Supply. A small grant of two to Schoolmasters were sustained; a grant in supply in aid of a wharf in prolongation of the wharf to extend to Phœnix Square, was brought forward by Mr. Hatheway, which he strongly advocated, pointing out the general utility of such an erection; he did not view it as a grant made to York County, inasmuch as the wharf would be of general utility to the Province, and could be considered in no other light than that of a Provincial undertaking.

Mr. Johnston said he would give his opposition to this grant; he said it was not a wharf but a street they wished to have built on the edge of the river, as if there was no land in the neighborhood, and that too at the public expense. He understood all about it; it was eventually to be formed into a street, to be built on and to furnish a revenue for the City Corporation.

Mr. M'Pherson would tell that hon. gentleman that there was not a place in the Province where a public work of that description was so much required; he said it was not the people of Fredericton who would receive the benefit but the public generally, from St. John to the Grand Falls. He thought it that hon. gentleman knew the destruction occasionally made by a sudden rise of this river, and especially in the fall of the year, he would not give it his opposition. He had been thousands of thousand feet of boards, pork, sugar, &c., overboard by the rise of the water in one night; these articles had been in people's hands up the river for the winter, and no one to take charge of it. Thousands of pounds worth of property had been destroyed in this way; he hoped that if to the House, it would be the unanimous grant; he said he believed that there was a more useful grant than this never was offered, when the Mr. Hatheway, however, by Mr. Scoville, who received from the Hon. Secretary a satisfactory reply, for to the occasion. A number of other small grants for return duties, &c. &c., were then passed. Also £150 for a wharf in Albert County; this was also under the patronage of the Hon. Secretary, the necessity of which was fully shown, by that gentleman. Several grants to widows of old soldiers, and for broken parcels to mariners, was also passed. £1,000 was then granted for Light Houses on the various coasts of the Province, commencing with the further sum of £250. Also £100 for the repair of the River St. Lawrence. £10 to aid that town's contract to the Owners of the Pilot, and for other purposes. Also £100 for a [illegible] in the County of Sunbury. £25 [illegible] for repairing the northern road across the River St. John, opposite Fredericton, for seven years.

The day being nearly exhausted, progress was reported.

The House then went into committee of the whole for the incorporation of the Cemetery Company at St. Andrews, which was agreed to as read.

The House then went into committee on a Bill to authorise the Rector and Church Wardens of Richibucto to sell and dispose of Church lands, which was also agreed to as read.

Capt. Robinson then moved the House into committee of the whole on a Bill to exclude from taxation railroad plant and other furniture.

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scale for which was graduated agreeably to the practice of the United States, viz., for native $30, foreigners generally, $300, and subjects of the United States, $500. This the hon. gentleman said was regulated precisely to meet the severity of our republican neighbors. The Bill on being read was ordered to be engrossed.

The House then went into committee on a Bill introduced by Mr. Harding, for the manufactory of iron and into malleable iron. Read and passed.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot brought in a Bill for the incorporation of the Courtney Bay Bridge Company, which was put off in consequence of the hour having arrived for going into Supply. Carried. A Bill for the division of Kent was ordered to be served in the General Assembly, which being committed, Mr. Scoville took the chair.

On the reading of the first section of the Bill, Mr. Johnston stated he had no objection to the exclusion of all Government officers, such as sheriffs, contractors, and all other Provincial officers of emolument; but he did not think that gentlemen through their connexion in any way impossibility of removing the Government, have ever improperly. They have not, I know, the appointments were showed to be had too in the House.

Hon. Attorney General said that the very contrary of that gentleman's fears had been the case as the Government, instead of receiving the votes of the persons who had office under them, has generally met their opposition.

Mr. Cutler thought it was unnecessary to name the various persons who were ineligible to be returned to that House; he would put it final; all persons holding office under the Government during pleasure; this he thought would meet the views of the country. He would do one of two things, and was prepared for either; he would either throw it open altogether, or include all public officers.

Mr. Newnham wished to establish a principle; he would either have no restrictions, or like the hon. member who just sat down, he would include all public officers as well as all practising attorneys, (to which Mr. Boyd cordially responded); he would let the people elect who they pleased, with the exception only of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Master of the Rolls, and Clerk of the Crown.

Hon. Speaker thought hon. members need not be under any apprehension as to the influence of the Government over members of that House. For his part, although he held a Government situation, he voted on all occasions independently, not did he think they had a wish to coerce him or any other hon. member, merely because they held office under the Government.

Hon. Surveyor General thought the amendment illiberal in the extreme; it was dictating to the people who they should or should not send to that House; he thought the people should be left to their own free choice, and not be hampered by restraints in a young and small colony like this. If all persons connected with the Government as the way contemplated by that amendment, it would be very difficult to find suitable men to be returned as representatives. It was well known that under Responsible Government any one taking office had to return to his constituency for their approbation, when they could return or reject them as best suited themselves.

The whole of Mr. Wilmot's opinions were endorsed by Dr. Thompson.

Hon. Col. Hayward said the law was a very important one, and one the country looked for at this time; he hoped therefore that hon. members would not give it a factious opposition, but take it calmly, considerately, and honestly, and offer such amendments only as would tend to perfect the Bill. There were too many lawyers in that House, too fond of talking; the lay members of the Legislature appeared willing to assist in getting the Bill through the House, indeed seemed willing to assist in making the Bill, while the lawyers appeared as equally determined to mar it. Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas had been spoken of; he was one of those judges, and had frequently tried cases in his own court, where, he believed, if the people got law, they got a great deal more justice. He was not a lawyer, and did not want to be one. When a case came before him he threw the law overboard, and made his decisions in accordance with straightforward justice and common honesty (laughter).

Mr. Barnard spoke in favour of the amendment—Mr. M'Leod against it.

Mr. Hatheway was for the amendment. He said as to persons holding situations under the Government, he considered they were bound to vote with the Executive, as that was in strict accordance with Responsible Government. He said he believed the people of the country were perfectly satisfied with the present Government.

Mr. Hatheway thought public officers were not fit for legislators, as during the session the business of these officers must be neglected, which he thought was not right; if they wished a seat in that House, let them resign; do one business or the other, but not both.

Mr. Street said if they would include the lawyers in the amendment, he would go for it, otherwise he should oppose it.

Mr. Joplin was also opposed to the amendment, as it would include the most subordinate officers, down even to a constable. Among several other observations on this question, he informed the House that *three hundred landlords in England owned the whole Island.*

Mr. Lewis said, make it specific—name those who were disqualified from holding a seat in the House, leave no ambiguity, and he would support the amendment.

Mr. Rice and Mr. Kerr thought the amendment too sweeping. Whatever might be thought or said of Responsible Government, said Mr. Kerr, he never yet has been able to discover where the responsibility was to be found.

Mr. M'Pherson also opposed the amendment as too sweeping and too exclusive.

Mr. Pickard, with a loud voice and strong gesture, said, Oh, take the question! Here we talk, talk, and nothing but talk; Mr. Speaker talks to hon. members, if they could manage it, would talk until the day of judgment; he was completely tired of such proceedings. Let us, said he, mend the business of the country, and go home.

Mr. Cutler's amendment to exclude all parsons holding places of emolument under Government was then put and lost. For the motion 8, against it 24. Some hon. member then moved an adjournment in the spirit of Mr. Cutler's remarks, when that gentleman said if the hon. member did not understand it, he referred the reporter in the gallery to it. At this time, a block in the door by the water of the black rod coming down from the Council to inform the House that His Excellency was then on the throne, and desired the attendance of the House in the Council Chamber. The House accordingly went up, and His Excellency gave his assent to a number of Bills, which had previously passed both branches, and the House returned to its Chamber, and the Speaker announced the intelligence of the fact.

Mr. Lewis gave notice that he would introduce a Bill to repeal the Act for the Registry of Deeds, excepted, to which Hon. Secretary moved an addition, to which Hon. Secretary moved an addition notary's public. He said it was all wrong together. (With great warmth,) he intended with the people's choice; it was a mere chap-trap, done to embarrass and catch the Government, and if carried never could be carried out in practice. Commissioners of roads were appointed annually, and would they give him imagine for a moment that they would take an office that compelled them to go back to their constituents every year for re-election. The thing was too ridiculous to be thought of.

Mr. Hatheway thought it a most tyrannical and oppressive act.

Mr. Perley said while the hard gentlemen appeared so determined to have everything their own way; they had better go a little further and exclude the whole community from holding office in the Legislature, except the lawyers.

Hon. Surveyor General said the law is factious opposition, and he had seen such things attempted for the purpose of exposing particular persons. The measure was illiberal, unjust, and not at all called for by the people. That House had occupied an uncomfortable position for some time in consequence of the Bill, and it was high time they made some amendment; this, said he, is the first day of the discussion that we have [illegible]ly terminated, and the new section of the Bill has not yet been discussed. We have unnecessarily waste of the time and money of the country.

Dr. Gregson said it was not the province of the House dropping would have every [illegible] lawyers counsel deliberately [illegible] cipal by continuing to [illegible] would have hope of carrying [illegible] amendment.

The motion was then [illegible] the putting of which was opposed by the Hon. Attorney General, and Hon. Speaker, who stated it was quite out of order and contrary to parliamentary usage; Mr. Johnston accordingly instating [illegible]

Mr. Needham then moved an amendment to strike out all but the Judges of the Supreme Court and Master of the Rolls, which was put and lost, and the section stood as at present [illegible]

Mr. Cutler then moved an amendment to the second section, which was lost, Carried was put and lost (2 to 31). The amendment which was then carried down to a division, [illegible] only in its ranks Messrs. Botsford, Barbarie, Cutler, and Johnston.

Mr. Needham then moved an amendment to the second section, that any member elected be added to such Council, the Speaker, the President and [illegible] between two members of the House, they [illegible] Carried.