

Clergyman's Sore Throat is attributable, generally, to the mode of speaking, and not to the length of time or violence of effort that may be employed. I have known several of my former cotemporaries on the stage suffer from sore throat, but I do not think, among those eminent in their art, that it could be regarded as a prevalent disease."

[From the Observer of Tuesday.]

#### NEW-BRUNSWICK COLONIAL ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last, pursuant to previous notice, a public meeting took place at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, of influential citizens of Saint John and its vicinity, for the purpose of discussing the present deplorable state of the Province, and for devising and adopting measures for remedying the evils under which we are now suffering. A large number of Merchants, Professional and other influential gentlemen assembled on the occasion, among whom we were pleased to see the Hon. Judge Botsford, His Worship the Mayor, and a number of members of both Houses of the Legislature, &c. The proceedings of the Meeting were conducted with the utmost harmony and unanimity; but one spirit of patriotism, loyalty and good feeling appearing to pervade all present. Hon. C. SIMONDS presided at the Meeting.—The following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

On motion of John V. Thurgar, Esq., seconded by Walker Tisdale, Esq., it was—

1. *Resolved*, That the extreme depression of the Commerce of this Colony, and the consequent depreciation of every kind of property, and injury to all branches of industry, imperatively require that the causes thereof should be investigated with a view of proposing and endeavouring to carry out measures which may tend to the revival of at least a portion of our past prosperity.

On motion of Hon. John Robertson, seconded by Edward Allison, Esq., it was—

2. *Resolved*, As the opinion of this Meeting that two of the great causes of our present difficulties are—First, The policy of the Imperial Government with regard to Trade generally, which, whatever may be the effect in the United Kingdom, has been extremely injurious to this Colony, by the ruinous depreciation of our staple Export in the Home Market—Second, The want of other Markets to supply the loss of the Home Market, which, for the reasons above stated, is no longer available to us to any good purpose; and therefore the conviction is irresistible that unless new Markets are opened to the Commercial enterprise of our Merchants, there appears to be no means of averting the otherwise inevitable ruin which is now hanging over our Commercial Establishments, and of consequence all other interests.

On motion of John Pollok, Esq., seconded by W. H. Street, Esq., it was—

3. *Resolved*, That it is highly expedient that our present condition should, with the least possible delay (jointly with that of the other Provinces if it should be found advisable) be laid before our Most Gracious Sovereign, the Imperial Parliament, and the British Public, with a view of directing the attention of the Mother Country, to this, to us, vitally important subject, in order that Her Majesty's Government may be induced to remove some of the evils which are impending over us.

On motion of Dr. Bayard, seconded by Thomas Allan, Esq., it was—

4. *Resolved*, That if a joint application with the other Provinces cannot be accomplished, it will be expedient for us to bring our case before Her Majesty's Government either by address, or by a deputation of Gentlemen intimately acquainted with the various interests of the Province, to urge our claims upon their most serious consideration.

On motion of James Whitney, Esq., seconded by Mr. S. L. Tilley—

5. *Whereas*, The future prosperity of this Province depends mainly, if not exclusively, upon the opening of new Markets for its Exports, and it becomes our duty to use all legitimate means to attain this vitally important object: *Therefore Resolved*, That if it be incompatible with the general interests of Great Britain, that these Colonies should have protection in her distant, and their only market; it is but justice that she should find for them other Markets on reciprocal terms, where proximity or other advantages would enable them to maintain Trade by which their existence as British Colonies may be continued.

On motion of William Parks, Esq., seconded by Mr. Edmund Kaye, it was—

6. *Resolved*, That the welfare of all the North American Colonies would be promoted by their cordially uniting, in all legitimate means, to accomplish measures of relief from their present Commercial difficulties; and therefore it is expedient that an Association be formed to be called "The New Brunswick Colonial Association," and that such Association shall by delegation, or otherwise, communicate and act with any similar Association which may be formed in this or any other of the North American Colonies; in order to devise some comprehensive and practicable scheme of general relief, to be submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and that—

Hon. Chas. Simonds; Hon. John Robertson; James Kirk; F. A. Wiggins; George Young; John Wishart; Robertson Bayard; Edward Allison; J. H. Gray; Dr. R. Bayard; J. V. Thurgar; Dr. Botsford; J. M. Robinson; Robert Jardine; Walker Tisdale; William Thomson; and J. W. Cudlip, Esquires—

Be a Committee, with power to add to their number, to prepare Rules for the Government of said Association; and that copies of these proceedings be transmitted to the different Towns and Counties of this Province, requesting that they will unite and act in concert with this Association.

It was finally moved by the Hon. John Robertson, seconded by Dr. Bayard, that the Hon. Mr. Simonds do leave the Chair, and that Edward Allison, Esq., take the Chair, which being carried, a vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to the honorable gentleman, for his able and impartial conduct during the meeting.

[Reported by G. BLATCH, Esq., Barrister, &c.]

Hon. JOHN ROBERTSON moved the second Resolution; which, he said, though merely a continuation of the first Resolution, was one of no small importance. He thought it would be found, that the first and last Resolutions of the series to be offered to-day, contained the pith and marrow of the whole; and the propositions they embraced required the united interest and energy of every man in the community, high and low, great and small, in combined effort for arresting the course of that general and increasing depression under which all were now suffering. Now was the time for action; and that action must be sound, it must be legitimate, it must be such as became British Colonists and loyal subjects. All knew well that the evils did exist; the difficulty was how to find a remedy, and how to apply it. This must be done cautiously, prudently, consistently, and legitimately, and as became men, who as British Colonists, were not exceeded in loyal devotion to their Monarch and their country by any subjects of the British Crown. The Resolution which he had just read contained two propositions; the first was, that the policy of the Home Government had proved ruinous to this Colony, by the depreciation of our staple commodity in the Home market, and the consequent destruction of our commercial resources. Greater and wiser men than any now present or perhaps than any who would meet in this City, had differed in opinion with regard to that policy. One party in the British Parliament contended, that the very alterations which we consider to have been our ruin, have been the real means of our greatest prosperity. Another party think, and with sound reason, that that policy was not only inimical to, but wholly inconsistent with Colonial prosperity. It was our duty to endeavour to lay our case before the British Throne, the British Parliament, and the British People; and that case was easily stated by a recapitulation of undeniable facts. In 1842, it was well known, that we enjoyed protective duties on our staple in the British market: the import duty on our Timber being 10s. per load, while on Foreign Timber it was 55s. per load. In that year, the British Parliament reduced the differential duty in our favour to 25s. per load; the supporters of that alteration stated emphatically, that its operation would be an immense benefit to us; and that party had since endeavoured to show triumphantly that such had proved to be its effect. But he (Hon. Mr. R.) thought it would be found on examination, that the whole system broached by that party was very fallacious, and that they had made out only a *prima facie* case, which must fall to the ground on calm inquiry and exposition. In 1841, the first announcement was made of an intended alteration of the differential duties, on Timber; which took place in 1842, and was intended to commence in June of that year; but in consequence of remonstrance, a postponement of the measure was conceded from June till October; but it was also announced that at a certain future period, the differential duties would be still further reduced. Scarcely a cargo of timber was shipped from these Provinces during that period, from June to October, 1842, except what was expressly ordered by Merchants at home; not a commission house in Great Britain would receive a consignment, on which any advances were expected to be made. The natural consequence was, that every port and every dock in Great Britain was filled with Ships doing nothing. One eminent house in the timber trade, a member of which was now present at this meeting, had no less than thirty-seven ships lying in the Liverpool Docks, most of them dismantled, and others with brooms at the mast-head. The result of this alteration of the duties was, that there was an immediate depression in the market, which reduced the price of timber amazingly, and destroyed our staple commerce. All our stocks were on our own hands, and there was no practicability of realizing funds from them, to enable our Merchants to meet their engagements on the other side the Atlantic. The ordinary consumption of the country was going on, but the trade of these Colonies was prostrated. In the mean time, a new source of consumption came into gradual operation. Railroads then just began to consume large quantities of timber and to reduce the stocks on hand at home. There were no imports from the Colonies to replenish those stocks; and the consequence was, that before the time arrived for the lowest differential duty to take effect, it was found that the stocks of Timber in Great Britain had been reduced to an unparalleled extent, and the price had risen. Then, when the new scale of low duty had come into effect, some few ships went home and found that the timber market was bare and the article in demand; not because the article was become more valuable, but because the supply had fallen short, the increased demand from a new and unusual source having created a fictitious value and rapid sale; and this continued the whole of that year. Our stock had in the mean time largely accumulated here; and the new demand at home caused it to be largely and speedily shipped to Great Britain. Then in the session of 1843-4, the supporters of the reduction of duties stated in Parliament, that here were proofs that that reduction of duty had both increased the importation of timber and also increased the price. But he (Hon. Mr. R.) thought it ought to be very plain to any man, that the unusual and extraordinary consumption of timber for railroads was the true cause of that state of things. We fancied here, at the time, from the sudden increased consumption, that we might probably have been wrong in our previous ideas; we began to think that there was some truth in the statements of our opponents, and we continued our supply beyond what the British consumers needed. Foreigners competed successfully with us, and thus the price was reduced to a point which rendered it impossible for the Colonies to compete profitably with the foreign shippers; the colonial merchant being at a distance of about 3000 miles from the British market, while the foreigner was, at the farthest, only about 480 miles from it. He (Hon. Mr. R.) confessed that he was one of those who, in 1843, 1844 and 1845, were somewhat mistaken in their ideas; but older and more experienced men told us that we should give the experiment a fair trial, and that we might yet find that the result would be unfavourable to us; they had told us truly, to wait till the railroad supplies should be completed and the demand should fall back to the ordinary consumption of the country, and then see what would be the effect. He thought, however, that it would not now be disputed, that since 1847, when the railroad operations began to fall off, and since which time so many of them had been aban-

doned or suspended, the effects of the new timber duties had been most calamitous to these Colonies, and had mainly tended to produce the present depression. But unfortunately we all well knew that the recent proceedings in Parliament had gone far beyond that. The Navigation Laws had been remodelled; not, indeed, in compliance with the voice of the British nation—not according to the voice of public opinion—but by a party movement, bolstered up by all the force and influence of the Ministerial Government, and regardless of the real merits of the case. The next step taken by this Province in their own defence, was a movement in apprehension of the alteration of the Navigation Laws. About this time last year, at one of the largest public meetings ever held in this City, a series of resolutions was triumphantly carried, for communication to the home government. All that was then asked was, that if such a course of legislation was deemed necessary for the general interests of the British Empire, and that Colonial protection was to be sacrificed, that then we should be allowed a free, unrestricted, untrammelled commercial intercourse with all the world. Give us but that, and we are satisfied that we can compete with any nation or people on the face of the globe.—(Applause.) He (Hon. Mr. R.) would say, take any number of men in this Colony, and compare them with the same number of men from any other part of the world, and they would be found equal in intelligence, industry and perseverance to any that could be placed in competition with them. The petition sent home from that public meeting was transmitted through the Provincial Government to the Government at home; and he would not disguise his opinion on that point; he would state plainly what he thought, which was, that that petition had been sacrificed in the channel through which it passed; it had not been fairly treated. It was received, however, most favourably by Her Most Gracious Majesty, and was submitted to the Board of Trade, of which Mr. Labouchere was the President. An answer to that petition was sent out by Earl Grey, which was one of the most specious pieces of sophistry ever penned in a despatch. In Parliament, Mr. Labouchere stated unequivocally that all the British North American Colonies had petitioned for the alteration of the Navigation Laws, and he (Hon. Mr. R.) would leave it to this meeting to state whether such could have been the fact, knowing, as they did, the circumstances as they really were. He would say, that the people of these Colonies were not fairly represented before the British people and Parliament, nor before Her Most Gracious Majesty herself. Their representations did not reach their destination in a proper manner; they were cut and carved or laid aside by the Colonial officials at home. In the House of Lords, it would be remembered, that Lord Stanley pressed Earl Grey on the point, whether all the Colonies had petitioned as had been asserted by Mr. Labouchere; and Lord Grey said not one word in reply. Lord Stanley said that he held in his hand a petition from New Brunswick of a very different tenor; but Lord Grey neither admitted nor denied the fact. He (Hon. Mr. R.) therefore would leave it to others to say whether Earl Grey had acted with candour on this occasion. Looking, then, at the period and the circumstances that had occurred between 1842 and 1847, and since that, the position advanced in this resolution was perfectly established. In 1847, the railroad demand began to fall off; the consumption had fallen back to the ordinary demand of the country, and from thence to this hour, it would be seen that the effect of that policy of Great Britain which was called FREE TRADE, (though it was really any thing but free trade, for it was all on one side, for the benefit of one party only,) had been such that the statements of this resolution were fully borne out. British Colonists were now met in the British market by foreigners, in every way; the distance from the Baltic to Hull was scarcely 300 miles, while these Colonies are from 3000 to 4000 miles from the mother country. Our labourers and mechanics are not fed upon brown bread and stock fish, and do not work for 9d. per day, as many do on the European Continent; but as our men are paid and fed, (and though not fed luxuriously, they are fed well and substantially, and as it is to be hoped they always may be fed,) it was impossible for us to compete with foreigners in the British market under the present state of affairs, or to avert the calamity impending over us, under the influence of the policy now pursued by Great Britain. That policy was threatening our entire ruin; and whenever it might suit the purposes of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to complete what had already been so inauspiciously commenced and carried out—whenever that minister should find it expedient to propose the withdrawal or abolition of all differential duties, that very moment the principle would be carried to its utmost extent, and our ruin, as Colonies, would be complete. Looking at these facts; the admission of foreigners to successful and profitable competition in the markets of Great Britain with her own Colonists; the absence of any other market for our commerce; the benefits of commercial intercourse all given away to foreign countries without one single equivalent being secured in return; our Colonial interests sacrificed without any compensation or substitution; all we want is a free trade for ourselves; let us have a reciprocal advantage, not a privilege all on one side and that directly injurious to us; such a one-sided reciprocity would not suit us at all; but let us have reciprocity and fair dealing between one country and another, so that we might compete on fair and equal terms with all the world. If we had that, we need not be at all alarmed for the consequences; we should then have manufactures of our own, in which we need fear no competitors, and some in which we might fearlessly challenge the world. We might then become manufacturers of shipping for all the world; we might not, perhaps, excel in the durability of the material, but with regard to model, symmetry of build, sailing and stowing qualifications, and cheapness, we should be unsurpassed by any nation. What were the facts now? We were giving away the produce of our labour and industry for less than it actually cost us; we were giving away our property and our capital, because the commercial policy of the mother country had deprived us of our only profitable market; and general ruin and bankruptcy must ensue, if that policy be persisted in. He (Hon. Mr. R.) would ask whether, with the intelligence, the industry and the enterprise that this country possessed, its inhabitants would allow themselves to be thus sacrificed, without an effort for their own salvation? Would they not rather make an united and vigorous effort to lay their case plainly and emphatically before the British people; not by transmitting their complaints through the mischievous and blighting channel of the Colonial Office, but by bringing them by other means before the Throne and the Parliament, and, through the medium of the press, before the British public at large? This was now the only course for British Colonists to pursue; and unless this course were speedily adopted, and some means of relief devised and effected, the Poor-houses in these Colonies would soon be full to overflowing, and the rest of the inhabitants weighed down to the ground with poor-taxes, without any means of paying them. It became them, then, as British

Colonists, and as loyal subjects, to adopt prompt and effective measures for making their case known to Her Majesty, to Her Majesty's Government, to the Imperial Parliament, and to the British public; and having done that, they need not despair. The people of this loyal Province should not be the first to say to the Parent Government, "You have belied ill to us, and now we will have nothing more to do with you;" no, rather let us say, that they have done us wrong, they have unjustly taken away our means and resources from us, and now they must in fairness and common honesty put us in a better position.—The second consideration involved in the Resolution he held in his hand, was, that it was desirable that steps should be taken to find out, by the best means in their power, a better market for their commerce, or at least a market equivalent to that which the British Government had deprived them of. The object of this meeting was to enquire into that subject, and to lay the result of that enquiry before the Government at home.—He (Hon. Mr. R.) did not attribute the whole of the depression of this Province to the causes which he had detailed; there was a good deal of domestic evil to counteract, a good deal to do among ourselves, to remove the causes of the present distress. We must put our own shoulders manfully to the wheel, and then confidently call on Hercules to assist.—(Applause.) The Association to grow out of this meeting must do a great deal; they must direct their energies to domestic abuses as well as to external difficulties. Eighty or ninety days' legislation on the affairs of this small Province, much of which time was spent as if the Legislators met to do nothing but talk, was by far too much! [Great applause.] This must be reduced to 30 or 40 days, which would be amply sufficient for all useful purposes; there must be more work in the Legislature and less talk! [Applause.] The country could not afford an expense of £10,000 per annum, for legislation for 200,000 people. [Applause.] The Legislature last session talked a good deal about retrenchment and economy, but they began just where they ought to have ended. They began with cutting down the Judges' salaries, which ought to have been the very last point of their interference. [Great applause.] It was most unfair, unjust and ungenerous to begin there; because of all official personages in any civilized country, the Judges ought especially to be independently and handsomely provided for, so that no possible room should be left for a suspicion of interested motives in the discharge of their duty, and the administration of justice should be beyond all doubt of its purity and integrity. There were plenty of other expenditures which would have been much more legitimate objects of the economising operations of the Legislature. Having now occupied more time than he had intended, he begged leave to move the Resolution which he had read.

EDWARD ALLISON, Esq., in few words seconded the Resolution; which was then passed unanimously.

At a meeting of the Committee appointed on Saturday the 28th, "to prepare Rules for the government" of the "New-Brunswick Colonial Association," the following gentlemen were added to their number, with a request to act:—Messrs. Edmund Kaye, George Thomas, Thomas Allan, John Owens, George Carvill, S. L. Tilley, W. G. Lawton, Robert Reed, Charles Watters, Z. Ring, George Morrissey, Duncan Robertson, John Fotherby, William Doherty, Henry Gilbert, John R. Marshall, Peter Campbell, James Smith, Wm. A. Robertson, Joseph W. Lawrence.

#### Mr. Noel, and the Question of Baptism.

Mr. Noel has not avowed himself a Baptist. He recently attended a public baptizing, at Dr. Cox's meeting; and is understood to be giving the question that earnest, serious, and independent examination which characterized his course with respect to the Church and State theory.

It may be noted, as one of the signs of the times, that outside of the Baptist churches, the subject of Baptism is engaging the attention of thoughtful men of various denominations. Many causes have contributed to this. The re-assertion of Church authority, by Romanists and Puseyites, has contributed to it. Publicly and privately Romanists have urged upon Protestants, that they are not consistent in rejecting the authority of the Church, as they on "her" authority baptize infants. In like manner Mr. Newman—when some of his followers anxiously inquired for Scripture authority in support of his doctrines, he answered them in a long Tract, No. 86, in which he argued that they could not—that they did not—go to Scripture for many undoubted truths, but received them on the authority of the Church. Nothing, for example, he said, was written in the Scripture of the Trinity, or the baptism of infants;—as they received and held these doctrines and practices on the authority of the Church, so they must on the same authority accept other Catholic verities. Then the awful importance assigned to the rite, as involving absolute regeneration, and which now forms the staple of Tractarian preaching,