

THE FAMILY CASKET

Is issued on the first of every month, at the office of the Christian Visitor.

Copies can be obtained in any number through the Travelling and Local Agents of the Visitor, or by addressing application to the Editor, Saint John, N. B. Terms as follows:—

One copy monthly, for one year, 1s. 3d.
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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH 6, 1856.

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Terms of the VISITOR, 7s. 6d., per annum in advance, 10s., if payment be delayed over three months.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No Communication will be inserted without the author's name in confidence. Unless the opinions expressed by correspondents be editorially endorsed we shall not consider ourselves responsible for them.

Correspondents are respectfully reminded that short communications, as a general thing, are more acceptable to readers of Newspapers than long ones, and that a legible style of writing will save the printer time, which is always valuable, and secure a correct impression.

All Ministers of the gospel, who will send us the advance, for six new subscribers, will get the "VISITOR" for one year free of charge.

Objections to Prohibition Examined and Refuted

In our issue of the 20th of February, we promised to take an early opportunity to show that the popular objections used against the Prohibitory Liquor Law when weighed in the balance of truth and equity are found wanting; and we now proceed to fulfil that promise. In doing so let us notice them in order.

1st. It is said that the Prohibitory Law is an "infringement of the people's rights." In dealing with this objection let us endeavor to understand what these rights are. Now we freely admit that man as a free agent has a perfect right to embrace whatever sentiment, to adopt whatever fashion, to engage in whatever business, and to eat and drink whatever he pleases, providing he does not interfere with the public good; but beyond this he must not go. The moment he enters upon a course, or engages in a calling that jeopardizes the welfare of others, or inflicts positive injury upon his fellow men, that moment he becomes a dangerous man in the community, and should be held responsible for the injury done. This principle is recognised as a vital element in the government of all well-regulated communities. Hence on the Statute Books of our Province we have a law prohibiting the desecration of the Sabbath by shooting, sporting, playing, hunting, drinking, or frequenting tippling houses, and we have laws also prohibiting drunkenness, incest, adultery, profanity, lottery establishments, theft, robbery, and murder, &c., &c. But why have these laws? Do they not curtail the liberty of the subject? We reply simply for the reason, that the public good demands them. If man could give loose to all evil passions, and commit all the sins that are named in the black catalogue of human offences, without incurring injury upon others, then indeed there might seem some propriety in removing all restriction, and in allowing every man to do what seemeth right in his own eyes; but it is as much as others suffer by his evil conduct, therefore, he must be restrained by law; and in case of violation, he must meet the penalty. The divine administration recognises this principle, and therefore, it must be right.

Apply this argument to the Prohibitory Liquor Law. This law is based upon the principle, that the liquor traffic is an evil of tremendous magnitude, that it is inflicting the most serious calamities upon all people and nations, who allow it, and therefore, it should be prohibited by the strong arm of the law. Now, if the premises be admitted as correct, the legitimate conclusions deduced from them cannot be denied. The question, then, which we propound to the opponents of the law, is simply this—Is the liquor traffic productive of injury to the community? Just open your eyes, friend, and look around you; study the history of the past, and see if results of the most fearful description have not attended its footsteps; to say nothing of the waste of health—the loss of property—the destruction of reputation—the individual and domestic misery occasioned by the traffic—there are all the crimes against God and humanity—engendered by it. You acknowledge that the Government does right in prohibiting by law Sabbath desecration, drunkenness, profanity, gambling, and lottery houses, places of ill-fame, theft, robbery, and murder, and yet all these offences, with a multitude of others that we might mention, are just the legitimate offspring of the traffic in question.

Such being the fact, we ask can it be right to prohibit these crimes by law and then to license men to sell that which always has, does now, and always will, so long as the traffic is allowed, excite to the commission of these very offences? What would you think of licensing men to steal, to blaspheme, to rob, to murder? Why would you shudder at the bare thought that such a law should disgrace the Statute Book of your country. Please explain the difference between licensing men to commit these sins against humanity, and licensing men to traffic in an article which in every age and country, where it has been used as a common beverage, has led to the perpetration of these very crimes.

Would you approve of a law that would give license to parties to go out for the sake of gain to prepare plagues for your alma house, criminals for your jails, and victims for your insane Asylums? Nay, you would denounce such a Statute as oppressive and ruinous in the highest degree; and yet you plead for the sanction of law to a business known to the world to be productive of these results; and condemn the Law which places its veto upon such business as a gross infringement of the people's rights.

But you say "men should be allowed to use

strong drinks in moderation and therefore the law that interferes with this privilege is oppressive." Here is the grand mistake, this moderation business after all is the great source of all the mischief. Never was there a man who calmly made up his mind to be a drunkard, nay, every man shrinks away instinctively from the drunkard's infamy and from the inebriates fearful doom; but the idea is that this good creature of God can be taken in moderation; hence the father drinks, and teaches his son to drink, of course in moderation; but in nine cases out of ten this moderation ends in down right drunkenness, and the dupe of MODERATION becomes the victim of the deepest degradation and of the blackest guilt. The plain truth is, that all experience proves that the only thorough safe-guard against the influence of this insidious foe is to be found in the shields of TOTAL ABSTINENCE and PROHIBITION. If men would abstain voluntarily as they ought to do, there would be no need of a Prohibitory Law; but they will not, and therefore the law is required.

The press of other matter forbids further remarks this week; but we shall resume the subject again in due time.

How our Friends Abroad Feel.

The author of the following deeply interesting communication will pardon us for giving it publicity. The truth is, it is too good to be kept secret. We publish it for two reasons—1. Because it is admirably adapted to help forward the cause for which it pleads; and 2ndly, because it is gratifying to know, that while we in New Brunswick are struggling hard to save our country from the blighting influences of the intoxicating cup, and to set a noble example of morality and good order to the world, that one of the sons of our Province is occupying a most influential position in the Empire State of the American Union, in the advocacy of the same heaven-appointed work. May success, enlarged and glorious, crown his efforts! Read what he says, thank God, and take courage:—

Office of the New York State Temperance Society, and the "Prohibitionist."

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 18, 1856.

To the Editor of the Christian Visitor.

Rev'd and Dear Sir,—Through numerous duties press exacting claims upon my attention, and many of them in connection with the Temperance movement in this and all surrounding States, I cannot bask the feelings which impel me to declare to you with what joy and gratitude I am penetrated, as I this evening read the editorial in the Christian Visitor (taken up first from the last Mail's Exchanges) respecting "Another Victory" at Kingston, King's County, New Brunswick.—When I heard (for as I read I seemed to be there) the Chairman announce that the votes approving the Law stood as three to one; when I heard the enthusiastic voice of cheers for the Royal Prohibitionist, (God bless the Queen!) when I felt "the walls of the house tremble with the deep and solemn tone of Old Hundred;" but especially when (as I did in heart) I prostrated myself with that devout multitude, who, "all with one consent joined in a fervent prayer of thanks to Almighty God for this great and signal victory." I was overpowered with deep and joyful emotion; and I exclaimed aloud, what only last night I had written for the Prohibitionist, "New Brunswick will make herself famous throughout the world as the Maine of the British Empire."

I notice in another column of the "Visitor" a column or so transferred from the Prohibitionist; and I will not dissimble the pleasure which is afforded me, by this evidence that even at this distance the words which I pen in this office, may do a little to aid that vast and momentous movement to which so many able writers at home are devoting themselves with energy and success. Nor can I well express to you, Rev. and dear Sir, how grateful I feel to the Editors of the Christian Visitor, the Religious Intelligencer, the Temperance Telegraph, the Woodstock Journal, and the Provincial Patriot, who exhaust their influence to further this great and beneficent reform. The Editors of the Courier and the Reporter, I notice with great gratification, have lately published most encouraging articles. With all this aid from the Press, with the prayers of nearly all the Clergy, and the faithful of every name, with the sympathies of great majorities of the men, and of almost all the women, I shall not doubt that Prohibition is henceforth the fixed policy of New Brunswick. From the moment I see, for the second time, a great body of men fall devoutly on their knees in token of religious exultation, I toss all apprehensions of Repeal to the winds!

In New York, as in all other Prohibitory States, (even Maine will scarcely concede for a year) Repeal is a moral impossibility. The Caskill mountains are not more firmly established, than the policy of Prohibition in the Empire State; and once sustained by the Court of Appeals, (as we have good reason to hope it will be, the last week in March) look for great tidings, for news of splendid triumphs over the Rum power, from the State of New York.

But I must close. Not however without renewing my thanks for the strange and vivid emotions which your report of the Kingston meeting has stirred within me; and not without some little hope, that even this hurried expression from a stray son of the Province, will serve somewhat to cheer you, in your pious and arduous endeavors, to uphold and establish the sublime principles and policy of Prohibition.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Most sincerely yours,

AMASA MCCOY.

Repeal.

A friend, writing us from Fredericton, says:—"The Bill to Repeal the Prohibitory Law, is to be the order of the day for Monday next."

We beg to remind honorable members, that the law which some of them wish to repeal, is based upon the principles of common justice, and is sustained by every moral requisition of the Bible, and by every truly religious feeling of the human heart. Repeal it, therefore, and you do violence to the laws of Christianity. Repeal it, and you pour contempt and insult upon the moral and religious sense of an overwhelming majority of the religious people of New Brunswick. Repeal it, and you pierce with unutterable anguish, the heart of many a devoted wife, and of many a fond

mother, who looks to this law as the only hope of a drunken husband, or of a prodigal son. Repeal it, and you place a yoke upon the necks of the people, that you, nor your children will be able to bear. Repeal it, and you give your sanction to a system of evil, that has no parallel in the history of the world. Repeal it, and you expose your sons and your daughters to become the miserable victims of intoxicating drinks. Repeal it, and you throw insurmountable obstacles in the way of your country's progress. Repeal it, and you exhibit a species of vacillation and folly, that will stamp your doings in the past, as a solemn mockery in the eyes of the people. Repeal it, and such of your constituents as judge of your acts under the influence of an enlightened mind, will declare you as utterly unworthy of their confidence and respect. Finally, repeal the Liquor Law, now upon your Statute Books, and you dishonor the God of purity—you degrade your country, and place a dark, deep stain upon your own legislative history that you can never wash out. Gentlemen, please bear these thoughts in mind when the subject of repeal comes up for debate.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.—Our correspondent at Fredericton has given a pretty full report of several of the speeches delivered during the recent debate in the House of Assembly. He has kindly consented to keep us advised on all matters of importance which may take place during the session. It will be seen that the Government is sustained by a good majority; we hope now they will go to work in good earnest for their country's good.

We shall note carefully the debate on the Prohibitory question.

CAUTION.

Dear Brother,—Allow me to give a word of caution to those mothers who are in the habit of leaving their little children alone, where they can get at a fireplace, or a stove, by recording the account of what I have witnessed to-day.—I was called this morning to see a child that had been left, by its mother, in a room by a cooking stove, while she went for water. On her return, she found the child enveloped in flame. On examining the child, I found the hands and feet burnt to a cinder, while the flesh of the right shoulder had been torn to the bone in removing the little sufferer from the floor. One side of the face and head was perfectly roasted; she asked twice for a drink while I stood by her side, and then died. It was a melancholy scene, for the poor mother became so perfectly deranged, that I found it necessary to send her to another house. The child was a lovely little girl, three years old, the daughter of Mr. John Shampier, Sand Point.

yours truly,

EDWIN CLAY.

CARLETON, St. John, Feb. 29, 1856.

LETTER FROM LONDON.

165 Aldersgate-street,

LONDON, Feb. 15

Dear Brother,—After a moderate share of tumbings and tossings, we arrived safely once more on the old sod. But, probably you may imagine that this is a very summary way of giving an account of a sea voyage. So that I must endeavor to give you a more detailed account, but knowing that you have so many important communications and talented articles, that week after week you are compelled to leave out for want of room, shall I must be brief.

Nothing of any consequence transpired during the first week. Our ship majestically moved onwards, sometimes at the rate of ten and eleven knots an hour. Smiles played on every face, as with eyes beaming with joy we watched our gallant vessel scudding thro' the trackless ocean her sails filled with the breeze, and as we caught each others glances, almost involuntarily the tongue would articulate, "sixteen or seventeen days passage to Old England. How glad would our friends in St. John be, could they but witness our situation." Things were not, however, destined to continue long in that way. The sails began to flap like the wings of a wounded bird, while dropping to the earth—a change had come over our feelings as well as our faces; some of us yawning, and saying, Oh, that a breeze would again fill the sails. Sure enough, a breeze and something more, did come. Our careful Captain soon noticed its appearance, and began to give orders to shorten sail, as he with a seaman-like sagacity, foresaw that soon we should have a steady blow. As expected, it came, gradually increasing into a strong gale. The face of the mighty deep, which but a short time before, was tranquil and serene, with little more movement than in Lily Lake, began to move: the ripple increased into angry waves, that began to disturb us,—every hour as the wind increased, they became fiercer and more terrible, moving along like so many mountains of boiling lava, threatening to destroy us. From about 8 p. m., Saturday until the morning, there seemed to be a war declared by the elements against our ship. We were by this time holed, and Sir, I think that we as passengers, were also in the same condition; for if we had attempted to make any headway, the probability is, that we should ourselves have measured the cabin floor against our wish. Between the raving of the waves, the whistling of the winds through the rigging, the tumbings of the chairs, crockery, trunks, &c., we had peculiar music. It was rather a solemn time. There were not many who enjoyed "nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep." Sunday, a calm—a few of us intended to hold a meeting; the vessel was, however, too unsteady, the waves had not ceased, although the wind had lulled. During this week we made but little progress, encountering contrary winds and calms.

Another Saturday night came—what a change! The stars sparkling in the azure sky, and the ship sailing along delightfully before the breeze. I could not help, as I paced the deck, contrasting the different scenes which passed before me with those of which I had been reading in the history of that good man, Job. I thought, is not this a representation of the life of the Christian at times; is not his vessel moving along unimpeded across the ocean of life—unimpeded, with all his sails full, driven along by the winds of prosperity. Contrary winds come, his cattle, his children, his health, his all, are taken away from him. How delightful is the feeling when again he sees the auspicious gale filling his sails, so that his frail bark moves along beneath the smiles of heaven towards the desired haven.

Sunday, Feb. 3, a delightful morning. On

Sabbaths and meeting nights, my mind lingered among the dear friends I had left behind, and it was a considerable comfort to my mind to think that there were those who sent petitions to the God of heaven on my behalf. In the afternoon we held a meeting on board, when we felt that it was good to be there.

On nearing the land we again encountered a heavy gale, when we were obliged to heave too. In this gale we regret to learn, that many vessels sustained considerable damage, and some lives were lost. In a remarkable manner I could discern the kind and tender care of a loving Father, everything seemed to be working together for our good.

Without sustaining any damage, we arrived safely on Saturday, February 9th., in the Mersey. All were anxious to land, which was accomplished during the afternoon. I can assure you that it is rather a pleasant sensation to feel terra firma beneath your feet, after being tossed about for some weeks on the waves. Sunday.—Oh! England I believe the secret of thy success to be because thou revere the laws of God, and that the Sabbath is acknowledged! As I walked along towards Foxheath Park, where the Rev. Dr. H. McNeil preaches, I could not but be struck with the quietness that reigned. The passers to and fro, generally appeared thoughtful and solemn.—We arrived in that beautiful Gothic structure where the above named gentleman preaches a little before the appointed time. At the time appointed the church was well filled, but not over crowded. After some preliminary services the Rev. H. McNeil made his appearance. An observer will soon find out that he is no common man. His voice is musical—he speaks distinctly—without any pomposity or attempt at showing off. I was quite delighted with the emphasis which he put on the different sentences, that, in itself, was to me as good as an ordinary sermon. The manner and matter of his sermon was every thing I could wish; his attitude and general appearance seems to be quite in union with his words. His only aim seems to be to enlighten the mind of his hearers in gospel truths. At a future time I shall give you a sketch of his sermon, as it is just the subject that the inhabitants of St. John want their minds to be enlightened upon, especially the Episcopalians. At 3 o'clock we went to hear Rev. H. S. Brown. As the afternoon was wet we thought that if we were in the Music Hall, where he lectures about quarter of an hour before the appointed time we should have a comfortable seat, but to my astonishment, no such thing was to be found, and ere the hour had arrived there was no standing room.—There was not less than 2000 persons in the hall beside those standing in the lobby, and many, I was informed, went away, failing to gain admission. The class of people that congregated to hear him on these occasions are working men, and probably many who never enter a place of worship. Who can compute the results? His aim is to instill into their minds exalted views of morality, of the Bible, of God. Mr. Brown is a middle aged man, about the medium height, with an air of carelessness and independence—a thorough "John Bull." I inquired of some mechanics what they thought of him. "Oh!" say they, "he is our man, no mistake about it." He is the working man's friend. His style is peculiarly his own—feels himself master of the audience—speaks authoritatively, and as one who thoroughly understands what he is about—exceedingly witty, without any appearance of striving to be so, to call forth a laugh or applause. There was one thing which at first I disliked in him, viz., causing so much levity. Yet his witticisms were so interspersed with good religious teachings and pithy appeals that I soon forgave him—at times could not help joining the rest, by indulging in a laugh. His subject was "Manliness." He first of all told us what was unmanly—unmanly and brutish to fight—he levelled some hard hits at prize fighters, which must have told well—unmanly to curse and swear, and to use any word beyond yea, yes, nay, nay. If, says he, you use by George, by Jupiter, by Gad, we only come to the conclusion that generally your words are not to be taken. Yes, but you say, we mean nothing by such words. Well, then, give them up—why use words without any meaning. Unmanly to stay at a public drinking place, boasting how much you are able to drink—and learning such phrases as, "Does your parents know that you are from home," &c. Unmanly to be foppish. If there were any fops present, I am quite sure that they must have left the place quite ashamed of themselves. The speaker said he was very sorry to be under the necessity of alluding to such a thing—but if people will be fools they must expect to hear of it. He pitied that young man, who, unless he appeared so and so, would not go to this and the other place, and would say, what will people say. I am such a fright. Poor deluded fool. Who are you I wonder—not one in a thousand cares or thinks anything about you. Even if you are pinked exactly to your taste, and quite up to the fashions, walking about, do you think the public see you? Not a bit of it, 'tis your well-brushed beaver, your loud studs, that they see, and not you.

He concluded by giving us one of the characteristics of a manly man, and that was to control our temper, never to go in a passion at what we can help, nor at what we cannot help. I feel now that I am getting by far too lengthy. I have not yet finished with Liverpool, but I must draw to a conclusion.

A word about the War. The English people wish for peace, if it can be had on honorable terms; but they seem doubtful of the results of this Conference. The press recommends the public not to "halloo before they are out of the woods." Not much sign in the Crimea that they think peace is soon to be concluded. In the Herald to-day, we find the following:—"During the present week an armistice again much talked of, but notwithstanding this, and the bitter snow and bitter winds, both French and English have ignored the probability of a truce, and worked harder than ever." The Sabbath question is exciting the public at present. Sermons are preached—petitions are sent to Parliament, opposing places of amusement being opened on the day which God had commanded his creatures ever to keep holy.

With kind regards to all friends

I remain, dear brother,

yours truly,

T. P. DAVIS.

From our Fredericton Correspondent.

When I concluded my last letter Mr. J. A. Harding was speaking—he occupied about an hour, but there did not appear to be sufficient point in his speech to make it very effective.—He was evidently considerably out of his element in speaking to this question.—He thought the present financial depression of the Country, chargeable to a great extent upon the present administration.

Mr. STEADMAN next spoke, and replied to Mr. Harding very fully, he appeared to have very clear ideas of the different points to which he referred.—His speech had especial reference to past legislation upon the introduction of Railroads and our present prospects in regard to them. He thought the Government had not done anything sufficient to shake that confidence which he had entertained in them, during the last Session of the Legislature, neither did he think the hon. member from the City of St. John. Mr. H. had shown sufficient grounds for deserting them at this time.

Mr. WILMOT followed in a speech of some length,—which plainly showed him intimately conversant with the finances of the Province.—He endeavored to prove that the present Government do not possess that financial and administrative ability, necessary, to transact the business of this Province, and that they were consequently not entitled to the confidence of the people. He would vote for the amendment.

The Hon. Mr. SMITH spoke next, and occupied about two hours.—He spoke fluently and replied to charges made against the Government; and during his speech he referred to a statement in circulation by a portion of the press, regarding an existing disaffection in the Government, which he explicitly denied. He Mr. S. asked for sufficient time for Government to introduce their measures, before they be tried and condemned upon them.

Col. HAYWARD replied to Mr. Smith, and exhibited a degree of wit and humour which made his speech quite interesting. The burden of his remarks consisted in contrasting the late with the present administration, and as a matter of course, gave the former the preference. He alluded to the return of Messrs. Goddard and Armstrong for St. John, as a proof that the present Government had not the confidence of the people.—He would vote for the amendment.

Mr. GILMOUR spoke next and occupied about an hour, he said the matter now under consideration was a question between the existing administration, and the people. The hon. mover of this amendment charged the Government with a want of ability to manage the affairs of the Province, more particularly to carry through a great Railroad scheme, so necessary to the future welfare and prosperity of the Province. This then is the question at issue. It appeared to him that much had been said respecting the contemplated Railroad scheme, which was premature; it will be quite time enough for the House to express views upon that subject when it comes before it; at any rate he should reserve his right to deal with that matter as may seem to him to be for the interest of this Country. One had only to mingle a short time with this assembly to discover that there are three parties, one party are those in power another party, those who wish to get into power, and the third party are those who neither want or expect any situation of power or emolument. By this remark he did not intend to charge any honorable member with any want of independence. To this third party he, Mr. Gilmour, claimed to belong, and he was happy to feel that no trammels had yet been thrown around him which could in any way influence the conclusions he should come to in considering this matter. If there had previously existed any doubt in the minds of the people touching their right to call the administrators of the Government to give an account of their stewardship, no such doubt will longer exist. "This discussion (whatever motives may have prompted the hon. mover of this amendment) must result in good to the country, and a similar discussion in October 1854, which resulted in the overthrow of the late Executive Government, established most firmly the principle of Responsible Government in this Province, and thereby taught the people, and those who may be entrusted with the management of public affairs, a lesson which will not soon be forgotten. He then contrasted the present Legislative power of New Brunswick with that which had for many years existed in this country. For many years past the Executive Government could distribute their patronage regardless of the wishes and the interests of the people, they could squander the hard earned money of the people, and yet there was no way to call them to account. It was very common upon the floor of this House to make flaming professions of equal rights to all, but the experience of many years, had proved these professions to be mere words; but the time had now come when the people would be satisfied with nothing less than evenhanded justice. He (Mr. G.) said political information was now being spread far and wide through the Province, and the people were waking up to their rights and were determined to assert them. Mr. G. said that certain hon. members who had preceded him, had apologized early in their speeches for any remarks they might make that would happen to give offence, he intended to offer no remarks of a personal nature; but if he should use any language respecting the manner in which matters had been managed in New Brunswick for many years past; he wished it expressly understood that he did not say half as much as he meant. He said he had only to look back in the history of affairs a short time, to see that the greatest injustice had been done to a large majority of the people, in the distribution of patronage and in granting to the different bodies the rights which they all as British subjects are entitled to. He had less patience to think of the unfair play that had been used, but the people have reason to be proud that they now enjoy a degree of liberty hitherto unknown. For this we owe no thanks to those who have for years held the helm; all that the people enjoy had been wrested from them piece by piece, and it is to be hoped that they will now exercise their power for the promotion of the best interests of the country. He (Mr. G.) had faith to believe they would do so; they had the power now to weigh the Government and if they were found wanting, out they must go. He, Mr. Gilmour, was not going to reply to the different charges that had been made against the Government, that was more particularly the office of the Government, and he had no doubt of their ability to do so in a very satisfactory manner. If he (Mr. G.) had to form his opinion of the ability of the opposition and the Government by the talent displayed in this debate, he would decidedly give the Government credit for possessing the most. He (Mr. G.) said that so far he had given expression to a few thoughts of a general nature, suggested by the discussion of the subject, and that he would now make three particular charges made by the hon. mover of the amendment. One was the appointment of Mr. Bliss to the Magistracy of Kent. He, Mr. Gilmour, had no disposition to meddle with the local affairs of Kent and he did not intend to do so, but the hon. mover of the amendment, (Mr. Gray) objected to the appointment, because Mr. Bliss had strong party feelings. Now, said Mr. Gilmour, let us look at these party feelings, and endeavor to illustrate them for a little. Suppose that a class of persons in any certain community felt that the Revenue Law was an invasion of their rights, and they were determined to evade that Law in defiance of the authorities, and in opposition to the laws of the land. Another class thought the Revenue Law ought to be observed and were determined that it should be observed. Now suppose that Mr. Bliss was one of this latter class, and then according to Mr. Gray's reasoning he would not be qualified for a Magistracy. Again sup-

pose there was a party of socialists who entirely disregarded the rights of property, and held that all things should be enjoyed in common. Another party contended that the laws of the land ought to be observed and the right of property respected, then he (Mr. Gray) would consider Mr. Bliss unfit for office, because he believed in the right of property, and would have the laws of the land obeyed. This is the first time he had heard a love of order and law urged as an objection to a man's appointment to office. And further the parties alluded to consisted of a set of persons who have arrayed themselves against the law of the land; made so legitimately and constitutionally, and he, Mr. Gilmour, would have little confidence in any administration that would not appoint to office men who would regard and carry out the law. Mr. Gilmour referred to a charge made by the hon. mover of the resolution, Mr. Gray, respecting a notice in the Royal Gazette for which he charged the Surveyor General, (Mr. Brown), with a want of feeling for the poor and a disposition to oppress them. If that hon. gentleman knew Mr. Brown as well as he (Mr. Gilmour) did, he would make no such charge, as the Surveyor General is the last man to oppress the poor, he knows their wants and trials, for he has felt the same. Mr. Gilmour read a notice in the Royal Gazette, issued by the late Government of which he (Mr. Gray) was a member, by which they would make from the people any land required for Railroads without any remuneration, so that the charge comes with bad grace from Mr. Gray. Mr. Gilmour said that economy was a most essential qualification in a Government, and this Government had proved themselves to possess that quality; it had been proved most clearly that in the expenses of the different departments a great saving had been effected, as in 1854, under the old Government, the expenses were £8000, in 1855, under the new administration, the same labour cost £4244, showing a saving to the Province of £3756. Let the people look at this!

The charges so far brought against the Government were matters of a local nature, in which certain representatives were dissatisfied, but no charge of any importance had yet been proved against them, and from all he had heard, he felt bound to vote against the amendment.

Mr. McCLELLAN, said that he had been an attentive listener to, and had taken copious notes of, the remarks of hon. members who had preceded him in this debate. He had no idea, now, of referring to these notes in detail, and of reviewing the eloquent addresses already made, pro and con. Nature or acquirement had not favoured him with very great oratorical power; and this discussion, important though it be,—should not, by its being protracted to an unusual length, be made to supersede the ordinary business of the Legislature. Digressions from the real subject before the House, appear frequent, and the hon. Member for Northumberland (Mr. Street) had again, carefully and systematically, reviewed the speeches of the eventful Session of 1854, so that the people shall, probably, be in early possession of a new Political Primer, revised and improved, and, certainly much enlarged. He (Mr. McC.) was very far from believing that this Government was infallible—no body of men can be expected to be entirely free from error, more than the men of which it is composed. In the acts of the present Cabinet, he noticed much which did not accord with his feelings. He need not particularize, since he had been, to a great extent, anticipated by previous speakers, and especially, by his learned friend, the hon. Member for Charlotte (Mr. Gilmour).

If it be true, as expressed by the hon. mover of this Amendment, (Mr. Gray) that this Administration was all-powerful when we last sat, that this House was completely under Government influence,—that the majority were tied to their chariot wheels; that, in fact, they were all become dependants and tame followers; they are bound to submit tacitly to the imputation, or show sufficient errors of theirs during the recess to induce the House now to adopt an entire change of opinion. Is the bestowal of provincial or local offices to be made a primary ground of accusation? Hon. members may, naturally enough, differ in their feelings about this, and in connection with the violation of some broad constitutional principle, these complaints might be very justly included as matters of a secondary consideration. It is true, we have been able, to some extent, to notice the operations of the Board of Works during the recess, and we might prejudice the intention of Government by certain acts of other departments. But after the very able and lucid financial statement of the Secretary, to which they had listened, he was led to believe that the Board of Works, as well as the department with which he (the Secretary) is more particularly connected, has been managed prudently and economically.

He (Mr. McC.) thought the Government had acted wisely, in not appointing a Post Master General; now, he had not voted for the Bill, making the office political, although passed by a very large majority of this House,—at a future time, this change may become desirable. The Attorney General had been engaged on a tour of negotiation, relating to the railroad, and if the Province be now freed from the contract of Jackson and Co. by his means, he (Mr. McC.) congratulated the country. But are we not prejudiced? Is not this Amendment premature? He (Mr. McC.) wished to give everyone a fair field. No measures were yet introduced; the efficiency of public departments are not brought to any just test; the proposed great Railroad Scheme is not officially before this House or the country. He (Mr. McC.) was not committed to any particular route, nor was he so sanguine as many hon. members, as to the benefits of Railroads, when it is necessary to plunge the Province recklessly in debt to procure them. The rights and interests of future generations are involved; unless with bright prospect ahead, it is never wise to incur present liabilities, and trust to the chances of the future. He was in favour of Railroads generally, and if these British Colonies could be so united, it might tend to a closer federal union, on the desirableness of which he need not now dwell. But in the present time of commercial depression, we should count well the cost, and act with prudence becoming our position. He would be glad to see the sections already begun, in working order first; but when the question came before the House, and when he had heard from other men—experienced men—he would then form his opinion without regard to present views.

The much talked of question of a dissolution of the House, is not a matter which any hon. member need fear. Reflecting, as we are supposed to do, the wishes of an intelligent people, the meeting of our constituents in this way, ought never to be feared. And in consideration of the many important measures, that are already passed by the House, it might be improper in the Government to order a new election whether sustained or not.

He (Mr. McC.) entertained a very high opinion of the hon. Mover of this Amendment, as well as many others of the opposition; but we must deal with measures not men. He was satisfied, however, that by such an effective and wholesome opposition, the people's rights will be the better protected.

Mr. BORN followed in a short speech, in which he denounced the Government, for their errors in distribution of patronage. He alluded, more particularly, to local grievances, and the appointment of magistrates in Charlotte.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL next addressed the House, in his usual and forcible style. He very satisfactorily explained the acts for which he had received so much abuse in a portion of the press. He contrasted some of the acts of the present, with those of the late Administration, and remarked, that from his age or otherwise, it was discovered that he was a clog, rather than a help