

The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

VOL. I.]

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE CLIQUE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

The Clique! "And what is a Clique?" inquires my reader. Courteous reader, this is a French term, used to represent a party banded together for some solitary, selfish purpose, from the benefits of which they cautiously exclude their fellow citizens. "And to whom do you apply the term among us?" Have a little patience, and lend attention, and you shall hear. In every small community there are persons who value themselves above their fellows, for some real or imaginary superiority. The idea of this superiority is, sometimes, caused by the accident of birth, one thinking that because his parents bore an honourable character in the community, he should inherit their good name as well as their wealth, if they left any; though he may happen to be as profligate a subject as ever graced a gallows: and however unreasonable and irrational his claim, it is seldom questioned by his fellow citizens, who admit it, perhaps, in consideration of his forefathers, and bow down to him as a being of superior order. This is the "Family pride" Clique, which, for order's sake, I shall call Clique No. 1.

There is a second order of society who, from small beginnings, some by industry and economy, others by cunning, deceit, and chicanery, raise themselves to wealth and opulence. They form a distinct clique. Now should Clique No. 1, of honourable pretensions, by reverses of fortune, become reduced in the world, it will be no difficult matter for Clique No. 2 to claim an alliance with its members. And hence, a new Clique is engendered; or more properly speaking, both Cliques are amalgamated, and form what poor people are taught to call "the higher orders of society." When I first began this essay, I thought I could add a *learned* Clique, and a *virtuous* Clique; but on mature reflection, I find that both *learning* and *virtue* hold cliques in *abhorrence*. The talented man, if he have (as he generally has,) imbibed those principles of honour which ornament a cultivated mind, will never debase himself by stooping to those mean exclusive acts—those circumventing schemes by which a clique endeavours to maintain its ground, as lord of the ascendancy. On the other hand, the virtuous man equally detests the clique, whose every act is diametrically opposed to his principles. He cannot patiently listen to the slanders by which its members vilify those who come not up to their standard of membership. He cannot suffer that mean duplicity, by which they try to screen the corrosion of hearts burning with envy, by an *outside, friendly* smile. He despises that pandering for power which characterizes every aspirant for office: his heart loathes the deed! He wishes well to his fellow men, without distinction of country or creed, and would patronise merit, were patronage in his power, regardless of those distinctions that are the characteristics of members of our modern Cliques. No, I said a truly virtuous, or a truly learned man, was never a member of those unsocial Cliques. So I must commence business with the stock-in-trade of the Cliques above described, and see how far the generic term applies to the "Upper Crust" of Prince Edward Island.

As soon as society takes some form of organization, the officials must be naturally sought among our "higher orders." This is reasonable enough: and if talent and virtue were as plenty among them as supercilious pride, or the hoards that witness the rapacity and deceit of their forefathers, or of themselves, nothing would be more judicious than the choice. But alas! this is rarely the case, as the plundered public coffers of P. E. Island, this day, too painfully demonstrate. They have been drained to maintain a set of speculating cormorants, who have hitherto preyed on her vitals, till there is nothing left but the bare bones, with which they'll take especial care not to blunt their greedy beaks! Our governing

Clique is so interwoven by marriages, mercantile alliances, but above all, by a desire to hold all power in their own hands, that no simile can so aptly represent the "Family Compact," as the Plexus of the nerves and blood vessels in the human system; where, if you *touch* or *bleed* the *slightest* branch, the *whole* vibrates or *bleeds* together! Such, in verity, is that incubus that stagnates the heart's blood of the country.

No sooner does a Governor arrive among us, than the Clique hold their Levee. Their different offices give them ready access to his person. From them he must derive all his information, till bitter experience informs him that it flows from a poisoned source: then it is too late to amend by the knowledge; and he must bear the burden of popular hatred, while "his confidential advisers" shelter themselves under their irresponsible network of family ramifications, while in the conflict, the unfortunate country suffers. So compact and so determined are they, in shielding the delinquencies of those who are connected with them, that the most gross violations of law and duty, if camouflaged, are unheeded and unredressed.

It is not my design, at present, to give you personal examples of my assertions, though this I could give in abundance. General terms will suffice; but, let my readers who are conversant with the subject, look round them, and consider how places of profit and patronage have been distributed for many years past—how the most glaring abuses, and the lavish expenditure of the public money, are sedulously screened from public view—how the most beneficial public enterprises are thwarted, because they don't accord with the views of those who steer the state barge, while others of a contrary tendency are unscrupulously undertaken, when found to benefit the parasites and dependants of the Clique, and he will give a ready assent to all I say. Don't imagine that I have any objection to an individual's filling a lucrative office, simply because he may have an affinity to those holding other offices; but when I find persons of this class, *less competent in every respect*, than persons of a different one, foisted into every office above that of a petty constable, the glaring truth irresistibly bursts on my mind, that "There's something rotten," not in "the state of Denmark," but in that of Prince Edward Island; and that this political Clique, called "the Family Compact," is subversive of the liberty and happiness of the Colony. The truth is, the lucrative offices of P. E. Island are become an heir-loom in the respective families who hold them. Don't they pass from sire to son with as natural a transition, as does the patrimonial inheritance, without the slightest regard to ability for filling the office? Some of those offices are a mercantile commodity, and serve as articles of commerce to speculators! A crisis has arrived to test the truth of this. An empty treasury—an impoverished and discontented people—the sources of employment and wealth dried up—public confidence annihilated—the delusions of a *tried* miscreant misleading the public mind, or casting it into the stupor and gloom of suspense; and yet, our senatorial *Solomons* and *Solons* sit with folded arms, sipping their brandy and water, and whiffing a cigar, with as much *sang froid* as would a Turkish Bashaw drink his coffee and smoke his pipe, while some disobedient slave was being strangled in his presence! And the remedy prescribed for all these evils by our law quacks, is the removal of the Governor, just as if these evils were not accumulating since the first Governor set his foot in P. E. Island. Was it not the same in the days of Governors Ready, Young, Harvey, and Fitz Roy? Aye, and ever will be the same, while the Clique can present so compact a phalanx to Colonial improvement, even though Sir Robert Peel himself were appointed Governor. The only remedy I can perceive, is to apply fire and brimstone to the *wasp's nest*; the bees may then collect their honey in peace.

REFORMER.

Sept. 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir;—I request your insertion of the following, taking you to be the more immediate organ of the farming interest,

Some time ago a letter was published, signed "Dandy Dinmont," in the Royal Gazette, advocating the growth of Potatoes, and rather quizzing an opinion I had given at the last meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, tending to cry down the absurd practice of their cultivation for exportation. I hope "Dandy Dinmont," who, by the bye, is perfectly well known to me in his real name, did not pursue the intention expressed in the letter in question, of growing a larger number of Potatoes than usual; for, at all events, that if he did, he has been spared from the general loss that the farmers will sustain by the destruction which the potatoe rot, whatever it be, has unhappily occasioned. But supposing the potatoes had answered every wish,—I will not say reasonable expectation, for the expectation was not reasonable—and had produced a large crop, I still should have maintained that the growth of them for exportation, is a practice injurious to the Colony, and subversive of the individual interests of those who plant them. If, indeed, the potatoes grown were to be used on the farm, then too many of them, or of any other green esculent, could not be planted: but when sent off the farm, they occasion to the grower an immense loss, and deteriorate the soil beyond all calculation.

When I advocate the growth of Turnips in preference, it is because I believe those roots will find only a very limited market—must be used at home, make fat cattle and a large quantity of manure, which will cause the production of a large quantity of wheat and other grain, which the farmer will find, in the long run, a safer thing to depend on than the selling of Potatoes, and thereby abstracting from the farm the means of reproduction. It is surprising to me, that such a system can find an advocate, or even apologist; for there is not a farmer, or a farming labourer, in the new or the old world, whom a few moment's reflection will not convince of its folly. My motive just now is, to induce people to digest the subject whilst they are laying out their lands for next year's crop. I do not set up for an authority in these things, but I do set up for being desirous to promote discussion, in order that men may come to sound conclusions, and not follow the practice I am writing about, or any other, without knowing why. For my own part, and in my own farming operations,—being situated where I can procure manure to purchase, or lime—(for it is the same thing to my argument)—I feel no necessity for keeping a large quantity of stock, and I wish to be understood as writing in the foregoing remarks only to those who have (as by far the larger portion of farmers have), to make their manure at home. Those who need not do so, but can command lime, guano, or any other such thing, will find it the best plan to grow no more green crops than will supply themselves with what they want at home, by which means they will produce a much larger quantity of corn and grass, and pay much less for labour. Let us just go through a valuation of a rotation of crop, on each plan, and see what the result will be:

1st year—Plough the sod and sow Wheat,	
Produce: 12 bus. at 6s per bus. with straw	£4 12 0
2d year—Wheat with manure, grass, &c..	
24 bus. at 6s. per bus. with straw	8 4 0
3d year—3 tons clover	9 0 0
4th do.—2 do. do.	6 0 0
5th do.—2 do. do.	6 0 0
	£33 16 0

USUAL PRACTICE.

1st year—Plough the sod: 25 bus. oats at	
1s. 6d. per bus. with straw	£2 18 0
2d year—250 bus. potatoes, at 1s. per bus.	12 10 0
3d do.—20 bus. wheat and straw	7 0 0
4th do.—2 tons clover	6 0 0
5th do.—1½ do. do.	4 10 0
	£34 18 0