

Major had undergone for her sake. Rumor added—and rumor for once spoke the whole truth—that the gentle fair one had, after a short siege, yielded her heart, and fixed a day when she would yield her hand to the captivating soldier. This news I thought would prove rather too much even for the comfortable philosophy of my friend, and I hesitated about communicating it to him. By some means, however, it came to his knowledge.

"What's your opinion of my wound, sir?" said he to me one day, after I had returned from a solitary saunter through Boulogne.

"Bad enough," said I; "but you will recover in three or four months."

"I doubt it," replied Tweezle; "but still it might have been worse!"

"If he had killed you outright," said I, guessing his meaning.

"Precisely so," replied Tweezle, smiling, and looked quite happy to think he had escaped with his life, and only received a wound that would confine him for six months to his bed.

"And what do you think of women-kind in general?" said Tweezle again, "and of Miss Julietta Blossom in particular?"

"They are false in general," said I, "and Miss Julietta Blossom is false in particular."

"Ah!" said Tweezle, chuckling, "I am a happy man!"

"I wish you a long continuance of your happiness," replied I.

Tweezle looked serious for a moment, and then heaved a deep sigh. "I have lost her!" said he.

"Miss Blossom?" inquired I.

"Yes! and a sweet creature she was! rich, beautiful, and well born! and I—'I've lost her!" Tweezle made an effort to look sad. "But it might have been worse!" he added brightening up.

For my part, I was glad to see him so cheerful; but I could not well see what reasons he had for being so, and I therefore asked him.

"I might have married her!" said Tweezle.

Happy, happy Peregrine!

The Examiner.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1850.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

It is so much the fashion now-a-days with Editors of Politics, Newspapers, in a certain remote part of the world that shall be nameless, to substitute the scissors for the pen, and to confine the functions of the Editorial Chair to the clipping of paragraphs from other papers, that we are more than half inclined to let our little Sheet make its descent upon the community without so much as a "God save all here!" or any other polite formality of an introductory visit. This style of editorship is, to say the least of it, admirably economical. It leaves many a quire of virgin foolscap unsoiled—many a bottle of sable ink unshaken, without at all taking into account the many hours an editor will save by not having to scratch his pate for an idea. Besides, there is much philosophy in the conduct of this tactiturn, automaton sort of editor: he is sure not to compromise his dignity, nor expose his ignorance, by writing, or attempting to write, on subjects he knows little or nothing at all about; and the more closely he keeps his cogitations to himself, the more likely is he to be regarded by the vulgar crowd as a very wise and very learned gentleman.

Notwithstanding the undoubted advantages resulting from this silent system of editorship, somewhat it is not, nor ever was, agreeable to our taste. We don't like banqueting always on other men's brains. We have a notion—it may be unphilosophical or imprudential—that it is better to speak boldly the thoughts within us, though we run the risk of being called ever so hard a name, than to keep our tongue between our teeth, thrust our hands in our pockets, and strive to look as if we really are. We have a notion that it may be unphilosophical in the present of the world which we live in—that a Newspaper should do something more than the reprinting of dress extracts of books, and the like of such trifles, and that the Lord subjects themselves to an interference as much

paper made up wholly and solely of bits and scraps cribbed from other Journals, as we would in sitting down to a repast whose only dish was fabricated out of the offal gathered from another man's table.

Every where out of Prince Edward Island the chief aim of the Press is to inform and direct the public mind—to gather its opinions—to make them known and felt—to glean knowledge from every available source, and scatter it broad cast through the land—to censure Wrong and uphold Right—to chastise Error whether in the high-born or the low, and to disseminate Truth. Old John Gutenberg's discovery were of little avail if it served no higher purpose than the registry of births, marriages, shipping news, advertisements, and such local miscellaneous matters. Shall the Press of Prince Edward Island be an exception to the Press of every other civilized and intelligent country? Shall it have no Public Voice, whose tones may be heard in every corner of the land—shaping into utterance the thoughts that agitate the general breast—claiming for all equality of rights and exemption from injustice—not snivelling, nor carping, nor sounding meaningless panegyrics on behalf of any creature of Fortune who may deem himself superior to the crowd? We believe the public are at length disposed to answer these questions in the negative. Tory and Radical, Snatcher and Snarler, appear to be thoroughly sick of the pusillanimous spirit that has long characterized our local Press. We do not, however, presume to hope, that in seeking to supply the desideratum, we shall succeed in pleasing all parties by the line of conduct we mean to pursue with the new Series of THE EXAMINER. Our first desire is to please ourselves. By this we mean, to follow the bent of our own thoughts, to make THE EXAMINER, in short, as nearly as possible a reflex of the principles and opinions, regarding public questions, which it was our study in a former series of THE EXAMINER to pursue. During the interregnum of our editorial life we have watched the growing power of these principles. Five or six years ago the old Family Compact was all powerful. Escheat, which for a period had frightened the Isle from its propriety, was then well nigh defunct. The desire for Executive Responsibility was but slowly permeating the surrounding provinces. In those provinces the desire has since been gratified. All the nonsense of vested rights—hereditary tenure of office—faithful public services, which had long been the staple of Clique cajolery in British America, is now remembered, if remembered at all, only to be laughed at and contemned. In Prince Edward Island it is not so. The old absurdities are not yet laughed out of fashion; but thanks to the democratic spirit of the age, the few who cherish them is every day becoming "beautifully less." Many a good intelligent fellow, who, in times past, would have crept into a rat-hole if an "official" frowned upon him, or leaped with joy if favoured with that mighty functionary's smile, has learned to know that it lies with himself not to be inferior to his fellow mortal in any or all of the attributes of manhood. One of the first objects of THE EXAMINER will be to give strength and permanency to this feeling of honest independence—to make it universal. Without it we must be slaves—slaves not, perhaps, by an unjust and arbitrary exercise of power, nor through the instrumentality of vicious laws, but through the want of proper respect for ourselves, and dread of others no better than ourselves.

Look to the Government of Prince Edward Island! Is there a colony of the Empire in which public opinion exercises so small an influence over the administration of its affairs? where their feelings and opinions are so little cared for, by the Government, except, indeed, it be at the present, when it is the

cajole them, so that their most sweet voices may be won in favour of such Representatives as will support in the Legislature the pretensions of the arrogant few? Why is this the case? Because the Compact of Charlottetown have held in their gripe so long the patronage of the Crown, that they not only believe themselves to be the fittest persons to enjoy it, but that it is impossible to take it from them; and to encourage this delusion, every official has his sycophants or dependents, whose cupidity, or whose desire to be seen in "genteel society," will prompt them to swear to any absurdity their patron may propound: and because, moreover, the influence thus exercised has been unscrupulously used to close every channel of communication with the people—to intimidate and persecute any man who might seek, through the medium of the Press, to instruct his fellow countrymen how to enjoy their civil rights. To these causes alone is to be attributed the failure hitherto of a Liberal Newspaper in this Island. But while we acknowledge their potency, we at least are not disposed to yield to them without another struggle. We have brooked official frowns so long, we find no terrors in them. The opinions with which we entered public life have become part of our identity, and we could as easily forget or renounce them, as forget our accountability to, or renounce our dependence upon, a Higher Power. If we succeed in no other instance with the New Series of THE EXAMINER than in sowing the germ of independent thought in the minds of our fellow colonists, our labours will be not only not in vain to the Colony, but its Press will in part be redeemed from the charge of servility and incapacity.

We have deemed it expedient to issue THE EXAMINER in a different form from that in which it was formerly printed, because, in the first instance, we can publish the Paper on a more economical plan, and reduce the price in order to meet the convenience of many who would not, perhaps, otherwise subscribe to it; and because so much of our time will be employed in other matters apart from our Office, that we could not, with satisfaction to ourselves and our Patrons, publish the Paper in the old form. The terms on which it is now issued will be seen on reference to the fourth page. What the country requires is, in our opinion, a Political Newspaper: this we are determined to make THE EXAMINER, and we shall be much surprised if our readers do not find more to amuse and interest in its columns, than they can obtain from the dull pages of the *Islander* and *Gazette*.

ANNEXATION TO NOVA SCOTIA.

In a small Town like ours, to which the absence of a great amount of trade and few causes for public excitement, must give a great deal of leisure for the indulgence of idle conjectures and silly prattle, it is only natural to expect that queer stories will be often palmed upon the public for Gospel truth. During the six years we have been vegetating here the monotony of our life has been often agreeably relieved by listening to many a strange tale concerning our Government and public men; but the strangest we have yet heard is that which attributes to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the writing of a Despatch to Earl Grey recommending that Nobleman to annex this Island to Nova Scotia, in case the local Legislature should refuse to grant an adequate Civil List, unlogged by a demand for Responsible Government. Our experience of this place has made us tolerably incredulous of much that we hear; still we must confess we have been staggered from our accustomed skepticism by the great and respectable mass of testimony which has been advanced to support the truth of this report.

of the Governor—if there be any such people in the Island)—have gravely testified to the truth of the fact, have declared, moreover, that His Excellency has employed his leisure in collecting data, to establish his position, that though annexation to Nova Scotia might, in some measure, be injurious to Charlottetown, it would be immeasurably advantageous to the Island generally, but that his Excellency is an annexationist only because the House of Assembly is composed of such stubborn fellows as not to do what he wishes them to do, and to be so audacious as to ask for a controul over the public officers whom they are required to pay: so that it appears His Excellency would forego the trifling consideration of benefitting the Island generally to serve Charlottetown, and gain a compliant House of Assembly. Now we don't intend to write a line either for or against annexation, because we cannot believe the question to have arisen for discussion. If it has been mooted by His Excellency—(observe, gentle reader, we use that little word "if" because we do not wholly disregard the testimony of veracious people, and because we will not be wholly guided by it)—if the question, we repeat, has been mooted by Sir Donald Campbell, it is entirely out of place. It is a question for the people of the Island, not for their Governor, nor for a thousand Governors greater than he. He may write a ream of Despatches on the subject if he pleases, but he can't do it, and the Colonial Secretary can't do it, and the Queen herself can't do it; the constitution of Prince Edward Island, wretched though it be as a copy of the British one, will outlive either or all of them, if the people will it so. The Queen's Minister may amend or alter the constitution of a Colony, but he can't annul it without the consent of its Legislature. We wish not to be guilty of any personal disrespect to Her Majesty's Representative, but we cannot help saying, that as he is sworn to maintain the institutions of the Country as he found them, he commits an unpardonable folly—if the story which is related of him be true) in seeking to frighten the Legislature from its duty by holding up the bugbear of annexation; and as there is a majority of his Executive Council in the Legislature, and as they are, or ought to be responsible for the acts of their Chief, we sincerely trust they will show that there is no foundation for the rumour to which we have now referred.

DESERTION OF THE TROOPS.

The following curious Despatch appeared in the Island Newspapers about three months ago, without note or comment. The indignation which it excited, containing, as it does, an unmerited imputation on the character of the whole community, is still rankling in the breasts of many; and it is a remarkable commentary on the independence of the local Press, that not one individual connected with the public journals has ventured to express an opinion in reference to it, from a dread, we suppose, of giving offence to "our worthy Governor," as the "open-to-all-parties-and-influenced-by-none" Paper delighted to style his Excellency in the first days of his Administration. Though the name of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies appears at the end of the Despatch, yet we do not hold his Lordship responsible for the expressions it contains; but indeed we may feel surprise that he would lend his name to such a paltry affair. Public Despatches, such as the one we now refer to, are like merchantable wares, manufactured to order. The wise and popular Government, over which his Excellency Sir Donald Campbell has the honour to preside, are alone entitled to the credit of dictating this singular document; and as five members of that Government hold place in the Legislature, we trust that, in the approaching

have stigmatized the whole people of the Colony with being accessory to the desertion of the Troops. We have heard it said, that this Despatch has originated with the Governor himself—that the Council did not advise it. We reject this story as too silly—too improbable—too derogatory to the honour and independence of the Government to be true. The Council are His Excellency's advisers: as such they must be cognizant of, and ought to be held accountable for, every public act that emanates from him: if there be no cognizance of official acts—(and one especially so important as that we are now considering, by which the whole Island is threatened with a loss of its bread and butter through the removal of the immense body of soldiers who are maintained here)—if there be no accountability on the part of "Her Majesty's Ministers" in this Colony, why then they are no Government, they are merely His Excellency's tools, which he may use or lay aside as he pleases. We say again we don't and can't believe the Council to have been ignorant of the Despatch which elicited the annexed reply from Earl Grey: if they were, they would have resigned their places, and left Sir Donald Campbell to shift for himself. It is due to their position to believe that every act of the Administration is a manifestation of their will, and nothing can be more devoutly deprecated than the establishment of a contrary belief, since that would prove a subversion of the principles of the Constitution, and the existence of a despotism, centring in one individual all Executive power.

DOWNING STREET, Sept. 9, 1849.

Sir; Lieutenant General Sir John Harvey, having reported to me, that he has complied with a request which you had made to him, to reduce the garrison of P. E. I. from 100 to 80 men, in consequence of the prevalence of Military Desertion, I have to acquaint you, that I approve of that measure; and I have further to acquaint you, that if this reduction of the Garrison does not produce the desired effect, of inducing the Colonists to discourage Desertion, the whole of the troops will undoubtedly be withdrawn.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

Lieut. Gov. Sir Donald Campbell, Bart, &c. &c. &c.

To the Electors of Prince Edward Island.

The Lieutenant Governor having received Despatches from England, has determined on dissolving the House of Assembly. Official secrecy prevents our diving into the recesses of the Lieutenant Governor's mind; but it must occur to the public as more than probable, that His Excellency's instructions compel him to take the sense of the Electors on the question of Responsible Government. An attempt has been made through the medium of official whispering to intimidate the Assembly of this Island, as well as its other inhabitants, with the threat of annexation to Nova Scotia—that is, it has been held out, that if the questions of the Civil List and Responsible Government be not separated, such a punishment would be inflicted. To give way to such an idle threat would be at once to give up the Representatives of the Island, bound hand and foot, to the dictation of the Government. Electors! you will not so act as to give effect to the wishes of the party who seeks to enslave you. Minor grievances and complaints there are many; but how can your Representatives redress them without the Government be changed from the responsible to the Responsible System. Will you suffer your friends, the advocates of the System, to be overborne? Will you surrender your own liberties, not merely for men who are themselves to advocate Responsible Government, for no one will appear in the hustings who will not make pledge, but judge of all Candidates their past actions. Try the