

The Examiner.

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

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1847.

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THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1847.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS' OPINIONS.

Our Correspondents seem determined on leaving us little chance of gossiping with our readers from the Editorial Chair. In order to give insertion to a mass of MS. in the shape of letters from correspondents, with which our table has been covered during the past week, we give up nearly the whole of the space usually reserved for editorial matter. Our readers have, however, no reason to complain of this circumstance,—the letters presented to their notice are well worthy of a careful perusal,—and we have no doubt, the change from editorials to communications will be found as agreeable to them as it is convenient and instructive to us. In giving place to the following communications we will, however, be permitted to say, that we do not necessarily bind ourselves to adopt the various sentiments of the writers. Whilst they offer much in which we heartily concur, there are still some passages which it would be as well to have left unwritten. Some of the strictures are, perhaps, needlessly severe, but they indicate the indignant feelings with which the recent proceedings of Messrs. Maclean and Montgomery are regarded by enlightened and liberal minds.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—The electors and tenantry of this Island are much indebted to you for the course you have pursued since the starting of your liberal and well-conducted paper.

Nothing was so much wanted here for a medium of communicating the sentiments entertained by one part of the country to another, as a Paper which would make it a part of its business to report faithfully, and without varnish, all that was said and done at any of the public meetings of political importance: that by such means the digested views of the country population might be gathered; and a power given it in the deliberations of the Legislature, which it has as yet been unable to exert for want of proper concentration. The policy of the Clique which has so injuriously acted among us has been to keep the country people as much dispersed and separated in their interests as possible, and to combine and invest all the power and influence of the Government in a selected party of their own immediate chums and retainers, and whenever an attempt has been made to divide the Island into Districts, to give some of the power now exerted by the central Government into the hands of the people themselves, an immediate outcry has been purposely raised against it, and the attempt crushed without even the decency of an examination, if it merited consideration or not. It is time that the country should no longer be deluded: and if it really possess the wit and spirit I am willing to give it credit for, it will soon shake off the bands which have so long been imposed, and rise like a giant in its strength to assert the independence and maintain the honor of the rural districts. If a striking example of the plans of this overbearing Clique had been wanted, it was opportunely supplied by the eager and strenuous exertions of the whole gang to swamp the election of that courageous and truly independent asserter of the claims of the people—the Hon. George Coles: so triumphantly frustrated by the truth and fortitude of the electors, who then gave indeed a noble example worthy of imitation by all who desire their country's prosperity.

For days previous to that Election the roads leading from Charlottetown to the different parts of the districts inhabited by voters, were surprised by the absolute swarming of the storekeepers, lawyers, officials, clerks, understrappers, toad-eaters, &c. of the Compact and its tail. Men who rarely wandered from their counters, and had not hitherto troubled themselves of the why

and wherefore of Elections, were then to be seen examining their ledgers, and preparing to join in the one great effort, to crush the offending impugner of their

"Right divine to govern wrong."

Vain and impotent will all such efforts ever prove where the people are alive to their own honor and power, and let them henceforth mark well the man who shall endeavour to controul them in the exercise of their elective privilege either by favor or threats, and the whole fabric of this corrupt system will be soon shaken to its foundation, and laid bare to the condemnation it so well deserves.

I have been led to trouble you with these observations by reading your report of the speeches at the late meeting at Princetown, called to enable the Members to give a *satisfactory* explanation of their conduct in the late Session of the General Assembly, and a singular display Mr. Montgomery seems to have made of it. We have all heard of the man,

"Whose eyes would hardly serve at most
To guard his master 'gainst a post;"

and Mr. Montgomery's intellect would appear to be of the same useful description, for he professes to have been fighting the battle of the people in the company of Pope, Palmer, the Compact and tail, against those tried and unflinching asserters of the just rights and claims of the tenantry—Rae, Coles, &c. &c. If he really believed that in such company he could ever do any good to the liberal cause, we may feel pity at his delusion; but we must consider him totally incapacitated for the office he fills by his abject imbecility. If, on the other hand, (as may be feared) he was merely endeavouring to sneak out of a scrape, by pleading such a flimsy excuse, he is then deserving of all the contempt which can be dealt to him, as entirely unworthy of all future trust. As to Mr. Montgomery's assertion, that Mr. Pope had come over to him: if he had done no other wrong to his constituents, than this attempt to palm upon them this very transparent piece of humbug, he ought to be ousted with disgrace; and *so indeed should all who dare attempt to practise such an imposition upon the understandings of the people*, or who may offer any similar pretext for their desertion.

To any man of ordinary penetration, the very fact of Pope and the Compact waging open war with the Governor, should have been an assurance that Sir Henry Huntley was seeking to upset the corruptions and abuses which have so long bound and repressed the natural energies of the Colony and people. What have the people to do with the private quarrels of any parties, but to seize the favourable opportunity which they may offer for obtaining their remedy for what is wrong. They seek only to be well and wisely governed; and the abuses which have existed, and still exist, in the management of the public affairs of this Island, they believe have little chance of remedy but in the overthrow of the Clique, in whose selfish and corrupt administration they have all arisen. Who has forgotten the hurry and agitation with which all Charlottetown was overtaken upon a certain investigation being ordered? What a rummaging of tills, and drawing of Bills—what midnight cogitations, visitations, and consultations, and what exertions were then made to stifle its further progress. Who can imagine what tales might be told if a certain chest could utter all its secrets? but close as they are supposed to be locked in the breasts of those who have thriven by them, let the people but do their part, by giving their steady support to the men who are seeking to unfold these mysteries, and they will obtain a commensurate reward for all which they may now have to undergo.

I have just been reading your further report of Mr. D. McLean's observations at the meeting: and so Mr. McLean has discovered that he has no more confidence in Mr. Pope now than he ever had; and yet he is found herding with him and his obnoxious set—feeding on

the same garbage, and drinking of the same dirty puddles. Connected together by the same link—(hatred of the Governor)—he, in like manner, is blinded to all other consequences.

Hatred, vanity, and the Speaker's champagne dinners have completely destroyed the small portion of independence and understanding I once gave Mr. McLean credit for. It is to be hoped that his constituency will never disgrace themselves by returning him again.

MOMUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—In your No. of 4th Sept. appears a report of some observations made by me at a Meeting in Princetown Royalty, on the 20th August. Considering the imperfect accommodation which the Reporter had—that his notes were not taken in short hand, nor extended for two or three days afterwards, it is creditable to him. Yet, it contains some errors and omissions which must be rectified. It states that I read from the Journals an Act relative to Messrs. Pope, J. S. McDonald and Palmer having been appointed to the Executive Council. From memory I quoted a clause of an Act, but from the Journals read a Resolution;—there are, as you know, no Acts in the Journals. The Resolution, which was meant to convince the most zealous opponents of Mr. Coles, that their opposition on the point at issue was inconsistent, is as follows:—

"That as 18 out of 21 members of the House had joined in requesting the Imperial Government to cause henceforth four of the members of the House to form part of the Executive Council, yet that nevertheless any member of the House accepting of such seat so sought for by this House, shall by his said acceptance cease to be a member of this House until re-elected, and that the three precedents which have occurred since 1839, of three members of the Assembly accepting such seats in the Executive Council, viz: the present Speaker, the Hon. J. S. McDonald, and the Hon. E. Palmer, ought not henceforth to be regarded as precedents, being as such extremely inconvenient."

The next error regards an accusation against me, concocted in 1842, and brought forward in 1843. It was proved to have had no foundation, and in speaking of the *animus* which evidently dictated that move, I described it as done with an intention to crush by false accusation a member whom they could not otherwise silence, and to send him forth traduced with the charge of having abused the honourable office of Representative, by having made an unauthorized and improper interpolation on one of the documents of the House. Had this interpolation been made and as described, it would no doubt have been very blameable, but could scarcely, in fair parlance, be described by me as "almost as foul a charge as could be laid to the account of any man." Had it been as alleged, it would have been the correction, without the authority of the House, of an error which I had made in drawing up, by order of the House, a certain document; and this done after it had passed through the House without correction. I have learned years since, that it was termed a "forgery, &c." The error, however, was discovered by some one within three hours after I presented the paper, and was next morning corrected by order of the House, on motion made to that purpose by me. Possibly Mr. Pope might not be aware of the falsity of the accusation. But if so, it was that he had not allowed his own judgment fair play, and in his position as Speaker, he ought not, unless on the most undoubted proof, to have pledged himself as he did. The next thing worth notice, is in regard to Mr. Pope's being ready to adopt any means to attain his ends. This, of course, applies merely to political moves. As a Trader, Custom-house Officer, Land Agent, Magistrate, or in his private capacity, I make no such charge. Perhaps his name appears too often, so as to give an appearance of deep-rooted hatred;—but that is past: the aversion and distrust may remain. But when I say Pope, by that word I mean the party of which, in