

# The Examiner.

## AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

New Series.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### LETTER FROM MR. RAE ON RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.  
SIR,

Having understood that it has been industriously circulated that I have become an opposer of Responsible Government, because, in the distribution of offices, I thought I would be neglected, it seems necessary to address to you the following remarks. There have occasionally appeared in the *Gazette*, and every week in the *Islander*, attacks on the majority of the House of Assembly, or on some individual members thereof. These have consisted of some clear statements of fact,—of some distorted statements of fact,—of alleged motives, which the writers had no sufficient means of ascertaining,—and lastly, in the *Islander*, of attempts at personal ridicule, interspersed with some direct falsehoods. Now were all, as these papers assert, and in addition were the people sure that when Responsible Government should be put in force, the House would put into office men whose past political conduct gave them no title thereto, still I believe the people would desire Responsible Government; and I am sure they ought so to do, because they ought to have controul over office holders; under any system of Responsible Government they would have more or less of such control, and at present they have none. Some may think that the chief offices should be held by members of Assembly,—others, that the principal office holders should be excluded from a seat in the Legislature; but under either of these modes, or under any intermediate mode, the people would have a real influence over the chief department of their public business, which now they do not possess. That such influence would sometimes be abused, is not denied, but on most occasions it would operate for the public benefit; therefore, though my judgment may differ from that of many as to the form of Responsible Government best suited to the American Colonies, and especially to this Colony; yet, under any shape in which it has been proposed, I am satisfied I ought not to vote against it. Nor does my opinion stop here; were the Legislative Council and the Commissioners of Small Debts both made elective, I believe the public would gain by such change. The first may be censured as a speculative novelty, but only by those who don't know that more than a hundred years since different Legislative Councils were elective; and as to the last, all the principal towns in Britain elect their own Magistrates, who generally decide not only in the minor criminal cases, but also in civil suits. In some towns they decide on important cases both civil and criminal. They may determine on suits from £5 to £5000.

True they almost uniformly are guided by the opinions of a legal gentleman, but he is chosen by them, and not by the Crown. Throughout all England many public offices of trust and emolument are elective; the Coroners and Sheriffs used to be elected; and the most important shrievalty in the empire, that of London, is still elective. Gentlemen may suggest to enlighten ignorance and correct enthusiasm by reading Blackstone. Blackstone and De Lolme, and Gilbert Stuart, and Adam Smith, and many others, had been perused before I came to America; but I seldom neglect an opportunity of refreshing my memory with these or other standard works. They will allow me to recommend to them, by way of amusement, Milton in answer to Salmasius, and Bacon's *Atlantis*, and Harrington's *Oceana*; and Erskine's *Armata*, and the political treatise written by the tutor of James 6th. Turning from these, and passing over your own complimentary article of the 23d March, the country generally desire, and have a right to have their desire complied with, that cases originating in a county should be finally adjudged there. The appeal to England it is impracticable for a poor man to follow, and therefore it should be abolished.

The remarks made by me on different occasions last Session might have rendered misrepresentation silent, but as Speaker, the vote never fell to me, and therefore and because so many unfounded statements have been made it seemed necessary to give a remembrancer.

I am,

Your obedient servt.,

ALEXANDER RAE,

Sept. 3, 1850.

### NEGLECTED LAWS.

MR. EDITOR,—

Some folks blame the House of Assembly for not passing good laws. No doubt there are some laws requisite which they never tried to pass, but many good laws which they passed were thrown out by the Council or disallowed by the British Government, and some good acts which got to be law, are neglected by the people. The act for cutting down thistles is notoriously neglected in many districts; and the act regulating the toll for grinding grain is the same. By law the bushel of oats should weigh 36 lbs., out of which while raw the miller is to take 4 lbs., that is one ninth, but many millers take the 4 lbs. out of the unsifted meal, which will not weigh over 24 lbs., and sometimes only 21 lbs. or 22 lbs., that is one fifth to one sixth, instead of one ninth;—and the people have not spirit to call them to an account. When they allow themselves to be thus wronged, they can't expect the Assembly men to be so anxious to do them good.

Yours,

E. B.

August 29, 1850.

### MISCELLANY.

**LORD BROUGHAM'S ECCENTRICITIES.**—The following curious description of Lord Brougham's vagaries is published in the *New York Mirror* from its London correspondent:—"Lord Brougham has been, during the week almost as great a lion as the hippopotamus; the eccentric Henry has startled his fellow peers, and astonished the town, by a new vagary in the style of his costume, the sight of which is enough to break a tailor's heart. Picture to yourself the venerable and world-renowned Erratic in white silk stockings, black knee smalls, patent leather pumps, silver shoe buckles, white waistcoat, white cravat, and black velvet coat, in Henry VIII. style, reaching to his calves! Fancy this attire surmounted by the most extraordinary face in the world—Brougham's face! Then conceive the whole apparition flitting about the gorgeous chamber of the new house of peers, amidst all the glittering and sumptuous paraphernalia of mediæval magnificence; the hour three in the afternoon; a midsummer sun streaming through the emblazoned windows; the crimson benches filled with the descendants of the chivalry of Runnymede in presence of the throne of their ancestors so often set up and pulled down; the blue and gold carpeted floor, studded with all the attributes, animate and inanimate, of an imposing state ceremonial, the representatives of the civil power in England at the bar. Fancy this scene—its solemn, grave, and almost silent splendor disturbed only, yet heightened by, 'Quick-silver Harry,' who fidgety as an orang-outang with delirium-tremens, is everywhere at once. Now he rushes up to the chancellor, and throws a sort of half somerset beside him on the woolsack, starting that elderly forensic as if an electric eel had suddenly made his acquaintance. Then he sets off to the other end of the house, and holds a confab with half-a-dozen strangers, questioning two or three of them together, and waiting for answers from no one. Next he plops down between two peers, asks one something, and tells the other something else, and the next instant is repeating the same process between two others."

A singular discovery has recently been made in France which has astonished the chemical world. The diamond it is well known is combustible, and is said to be pure carbon. This idea, in similar analogous cases, has led to the production of a magnificent diamond from charcoal, under the operation of the highest powers of galvanism combined with the strongest concentration of the solar rays. The diamond produced is said to be of the purest kind, and equal to the famous black diamond for which the Duke of York paid £11,000 sterling.

**THE HUNGARIAN EXILES.**—A private letter from a travelling friend has conveyed to us some interesting particulars of the illustrious Hungarians whom the jealousy of Austria, the dictation of Russia, and the weakness of the Porte have consigned to imprisonment at Kutayah. It was gratifying to learn that the exiles enjoyed tolerable health, and are more reconciled than at first to their unaccountable captivity. Kossuth, Batthyani, Meszaros, Perczel, and the rest were, indeed struck with despondency when conveyed as culprits and captives to the barrack prison of Kutayah, where cells were assigned them for habitation more savouring of Newgate than of honourable captivity. The strictest guard was kept over

them, and they were not allowed to pass the walls of the barrack without a strong escort. The Turkish officers and soldiers have treated the prisoners with deference, and the Turkish population with every mark of Oriental respect, Kossuth being with them the Kral, who had held for a time in his hands the destinies of Eastern Europe. This universal respect was especially evident on the occasion of Kossuth's reception of his children. Three of them, interesting and intelligent little creatures, were sent by the Austrian government, not without foreign intercession, to share their father's captivity. He and Madame Kossuth were allowed to go and meet them—under guard of course; and the very guard of rude Turkish soldiers were affected to tears at the meeting. In the education of his children, the delving and planting of a kind of garden within the barrack wall, and an occasional game of skittles with the companions of his political and military struggles, Kossuth whiles away the time of his captivity.

**LOOK TO YOUR PUNCTUATION.**—A toast, drank at the fourth of July celebration, was given as follows,—'Woman—without her, man would be a savage.'—The Boston Post thinks the punctuation erroneous, and should be corrected thus—'Woman, without her man, would be a savage.'

**"THE TIMES."**—Some interesting statistics, relative to the printing of the Times, were mentioned in a paper on printing machines, read by Mr. Edward Cowper, at the Institution of Civil Engineers. On the 7th of May, 1850, the Times and Supplement contained 72 columns or 17,500 lines, made up of upwards of a million pieces of type, of which matter about two-fifths were written, composed, and corrected after seven o'clock in the evening. The Supplement was sent to press at 7.50 p. m., the first form of the paper at 4.15 a. m., and the second form at 4.45 a. m.; on this occasion 7,000 papers were published before 6.15 a. m., 21,000 papers before 7.30 a. m., and 34,000 before 8.45 a. m., or in about four hours. The greatest number of copies ever printed in one day was 54,000, and the greatest quantity of printing in one day's publication was on the 1st of March, 1848, when the paper used weighed 7 tons, the weight usually required being 4 1-2 tons: the surface to be printed every night, including the Supplement, was 30 acres, the weight of the fount of type in constant use was 7 tons, and 110 compositors and 25 pressmen were constantly employed.

The Maine Legislature has voted the sum of \$5,000 for a survey of that portion of the "European and North American Railway," lying between Bangor and Calais.

A trader among the Camanchee Indians has discovered a *white woman*, fair and comely. She says she is well treated by her husband, a chief, but the women are cruel to her.

Terry O'Driscoll says in his weekly letter—"The Tenant Conference is sthrivin' to regulate matters without axin' leave o' the landlords, and there's a power o' the clergy to the fore—so much so that you would imagine 'twas a grand sinned that was goin' on for the teetotal expulsion of heresy, and the reshtoration of the forfeited estates to the discindants o' the right owners."