

# The Examiner.

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

Vol. 1.]

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1847.

[No. 6.

## RANDOM REFLECTIONS ON LOCAL POLITICS. No. III.

### CONSISTENCY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY TO THEIR PRINCIPLES.

And still he's in the self-same place  
Where at his setting out he was.

HUDIBRAS.

Until the publication of my last letter, I thought my "Reflections" would be honoured by the perusal of none but those who are the avowed friends of the "Examiner." A few days' conversation with your "men about town" has served to convince me of the erroneous estimation I had formed of the general taste of the public for Newspaper lucubrations. I must confess, however, that I have enjoyed greater amusement than instruction from the various comments to which that letter has given rise. That these comments would be by no means flattering to the vanity of a sensitive writer, I will readily admit; but they furnished at, least, irrefragible proof to the accomplishment of the object I had in view; namely—such a developement of the present policy of the Lieutenant Governor, in contradistinction to that which marked the administration while under the guidance of Mr. Pope, as would force itself on the attention of even His Excellency's adversaries, and leave them incapable of disproving it. While my humble strictures called forth the condemnation and abuse of the BLACK WATCH and their adherents, I have ample atonement in the fact, that their curiosity impels them into the ranks of my readers. Some of these gentry affect a dignified abhorrence for THE EXAMINER—they would not patronize a publication so fearless in the enunciation of its principles—"it is a Radical paper that ought not to be countenanced"—say they. Yet, strange to say, there is no class of the community more eager in their efforts to borrow it—more assiduous in skulking into secret places for the purpose of devouring its contents, than are its bitterest revilers. For my own part, they are at liberty to indulge in all the abuse and blackguardism with which their blackguard vocabulary can furnish them. They know their case to be a hopeless one: and it is natural to suppose that calumny and falsehood with them must be made to supply the place of facts and arguments. To all their ravings I reply with Boileau:

"Pauvres gens, je les plains; car on a pour les fous  
Plus de pitié que de courroux."\*

There is no sophism more prevalent with the enemies of His Excellency—none has been more industriously circulated amongst the country population—than this: that, by supporting the present Governor, and defending him against the rancour and malignity of THE BLACK WATCH, Mr. Rae, and his political friends in the Assembly, have abandoned those political principles to which they stand pledged. Now, what are the principles, for the maintenance of which, Mr. Rae's party received the suffrages of the people?

1st. They stand pledged to advocate a change in the administration of the Government, from the irresponsible system, under which Officers of Government have contended for the right of holding their situations as long as they pleased themselves, in defiance of the will of the people, as expressed through their Representatives—to that purely British system, by which the Representative Body would be enabled to exercise a wholesome controul over every department of Government. Have they been untrue to this pledge? No. The debates of the last, as well as former Sessions, teem with evidence of their consistency in this matter. The Responsible Government address was first brought into the House, last Session, by Mr. Rae,—and though Messrs. Palmer and Pope sought to strangle it by spurious definitions of the system—definitions, which, if worked out, would produce no change at all—the origi-

\* Poor gentlemen, I pity them, for one always entertains for fools more pity than anger.

nal address was carried by a large majority—several members who voted for Mr. Pope's address in Committee voting for Mr. Rae's in the House, because they knew there was a majority in favour of it,—and thereby sought, after an indecent manœuvre to proclaim their names upon the Journals as the advocates of Responsible Government. Those members who supported Mr. Rae's motion in Committee, supported it through every stage of the debate. So much, then, for their consistency upon this point.

2d. Have Mr. Rae and his party renounced their opinions and principles relatively to a just and equitable compensation to the Tenantry for their improvements? No. Mr. Rae introduced last Session, a Bill upon this subject. It passed the Lower Branch: several of Mr. Pope's party voting in favour of it, I confess—voting silently—because a vote against it would be unpopular and useless. On every question relating to the long-agitated question of the Land settlement, Mr. Rae's principles, and those of his political adherents, have been, and are, of the broadest and most liberal cast. The Compact party will not now venture to reproach Mr. Rae with any forgetfulness of the Escheat question, since his advocacy of that formed one of their strongest objections against him, and since the question ceased to be discussed long before they dreamt of accusing Mr. Rae with a change of principles.

3d. Mr. Rae and his party have been and are, enemies to official monopoly. Did they not show their consistency on this point, in addressing His Excellency on the subject of appointments to the Shrievalty—praying for the abolition of the mischievous and unconstitutional practice of appointing one individual to fill the situation of High Sheriff successively every year? Who were the most violent in their opposition to the measure? The most prominent and active adherents of the BLACK WATCH or Compact Party.

4th. Mr. Rae has ever been an uncompromising enemy to the domination of a Party that have usurped every vestige of patronage in the Government—that have triumphed over Governor and Assembly—and counteracted the liberal measures of the Representative Branch by false statements to the Imperial Government. Is Mr. Rae—is there any one of those members who have aroused the indignation of the BLACK WATCH by their defence of His Excellency's recent policy—less hostile at the present moment to the sway of an Oligarchy? No—no! Their determination to overturn it—if such an Herculean task can be accomplished—constitutes the chief transgression, in the eyes of the Compact, of those who have given their unqualified approval to His Excellency, because he is, fortunately for the future welfare of the Colony, equally assiduous in the performance of the good work.

In the advocacy of these principles, must be recognized the most striking features of the whole course of Mr. Rae's political life. The Journals of every Session are full of unquestionable evidence to his consistency in their defence. Where then has been the forfeiture or abandonment of political principles? "In supporting the Lieutenant Governor," the BLACK WATCH exclaims. But the Lieutenant Governor has unmistakably avowed his adherence to precisely the same principles. Shall Mr. Rae and his friends say to the Governor, "Sir Henry, we do not want your assistance in the carrying out of our views. It is true, that the Clique who advised and defended your policy for five years—who proclaimed you to be the most efficient and impartial Governor that ever ruled over us—who received offices for their friends in reward of their flattery—who poisoned your ear with calumnies against our party and our principles—now strive to remove you from the Government, and destroy your public and private character. But, Sir Henry, we have more confidence in the Clique, with all their deep-rooted hatred to ourselves and our principles, than we have in your Excellency, with your

friendship—your concurrence in our political sentiments—your concessions to our demands for just and equal rights to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects; we will therefore fly to the standard of your enemies, and aid them, though we believe you to be sincere." What man—with any the slightest pretensions to sanity and sense—earnestly desirous for the establishment of sound and impartial Government in this Island—and impressed with a keen sense of the evils which have long followed the sway of a powerful and unscrupulous Oligarchy, would pursue such a line of conduct as would bear the interpretation I have given? If the Liberal Party—now zealous in the support of His Excellency—were to consign to the tomb of all the Capulets their hostility to the Clique, and empty the phials of their wrath upon the unoffending head of His Excellency, justly then might their names be branded with the odium of political apostacy. But this can never be: It is a matter of little consequence, how long and how industriously the adherents of the Clique struggle to propagate the preposterous falsehood—that a change of principles has been incurred by the present advocates of His Excellency. All men of understanding rightly know, that those who make the charge, are yet unchanged. That Mr. Rae and his friends are still opposed to the Clique, on every political principle, is proof as strong as Holy Writ, to the soundness and sincerity of "the faith that is in them."

REFLECTOR.

August 26, 1847.

## PARTY NOMENCLATURES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir;—It appears from a series of Letters that have been published in the I-slander, Newspaper, from the pen of D. McLean, Esq., M. P. P., that he and the Editor of his I-slander, have attempted to fix the Nick-name of Snatcher on the political party to which you and I belong. Be it so; let them laugh, for we can afford to let them. It is an old saying: "they may laugh that lose, for they that win will laugh." Now, Sir, it appears by the aforesaid letters, that there are three political parties in the Island, viz.: The Snatchers, the Snarlers, and the Sticklers; 1st. the Liberals or Snatchers, as they, the Snarlers, please to call them, are those who want to see the Patronage of Government in the distribution of offices, &c., dispensed to all alike, according to merit. 2d. The Snarlers are those who, like the Dog in the Manger, will neither accept office themselves (for the best of all reasons, as they are sure it will not be offered to them), nor allow others to do so, if they can prevent them by Snarling at them, of which party D. McLean may be called the Snarler in Chief, if his application to Lord Stanley for the office of Surveyor General, was not repugnant thereto. 3d. The Sticklers, Compact Party, or, according to "Reflector's" nomenclature, the Black Watch, are those who stick to office as a barnacle to the bottom of a ship, and they and their allies are the greatest enemies to Responsible Government. So you see, Sir, we have not only the Snatchers, but also the Snarlers and the Sticklers. If Mr. McLean thinks he has given the I-slander and its friends one nickname to chuckle over, I think I have given the Examiner and its friends two in lieu of it, to smile at. Certainly this Island must be either blessed or cursed, between Snatchers, Snarlers and Sticklers, or Black Watch. I hope the Lieutenant Governor will be able to weather the storm, and be enabled to reward his friends, neglect and forget his enemies. I must leave off for the present: perhaps you may hear from me again very soon, if this is favourably received. I subscribe myself

A SNATCHER.

August 25, 1847.

P. S.—I expect the next Session the favourite toast, in the Room that you enter from the left hand, of the