LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION

Liberal-Conservative Candidate for Charlottetown,

HENRY LONGWORTH, ESQ.

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

OCTOBER 21, 1878.

Abolition of the Legislative Council

THE *Patriot* condemns the "Plural Vote Scheme" submitted by the Local Government in April last as one of the planks upon which the *pairty* would stand during the Legislative Council Elections! The *Patriot* believes that—

. . . "Any scheme that divides the electors of the same representative body into two classes –which makes a distinction, which cannot but be invidious, beween the elector who possesses some property and the elector who poseesses none—will be found on trial to be unworkable. The Chamber, so elected, would find itself in the unhappy predicament so graphically described in Holy Writ of the man who attempts to serve two masters. Such a scheme would be also contrary to the spirit of our age and the nature of our institutions—on this side of the Atlantic at any rate. Class distinctions are not popular in this part of the world, and the tendency is to narrow instead of to widen the gulf that separates the rich from the poor. The reflecting reader will see that any system of electing representatives to the Legislature that perpetually reminded the poor ef the differences between them and their richer neighbors, and which gave to men, owning property, privileges and advantages in an election contest, which poor men who felt themselves to be in every respect their equals, if not their superiors, did not possess, would create divisions and antagonisms in the Province infinitely more virulent and more enduring than any arising out of our present political differences. Besides political experiments and constitutional tinkering are generally unsatisfactory and discouraging, and are always exceedingly expensive in more ways than one. It would, therefore, we think, be wiser for us P. E. Islanders to keep on the beaten path than to try to find a new road for ourselves through the wilderness of speculative politics."

With all of which we heartily agree.

But the *Patriot* is opposed to the abolition of the Legislative Council. The *Patriot* says :—

"Leaving out this *fanciful scheme* of a single Chamber elected by a sort of compound constituency, there remain three courses for the people of this Province to consider. 1. The first is to leave our two Chambers as they are at present. 2. The second is to abolish the Legislative Council and leave the House of Assembly to be elected by its present constituency. 3. And the third is to have one Legislative Chamber, but to abolish universal suffrage and to require a property qualification for all voters, nearly, if not quite as high, as that of our present Legislative electors. For our own part, we candidly confess that we prefer the *first* of these three schemes."

And we candidly confess that we prefer the *second*. We think there are few whose opinions are worthy of any consideration, opposed to it. Why should they? Farmer's sons and the tradesman's sons—who comprise the entire body of non-property-holding voters—who possess all the advantages of our Free Educational system—are surely as capable of casting a ballot intelligently as their fathers. But, what is the ground taken by those who favor the abolition of the Council? Not, certainly, that property holders enjoy any privileges under it or derive any benefit from it. Quite the contrary. It is asserted that the interests of property holders are not conserved by the Council. It is stated that the Council has invariably failed in its duty to property holders when put to the test. It is declared that it has always been the obedient tool of the Lower House. It is said that the Council has never—since it became elective—put a check upon legislation. If this be the case, the Property Qualification of voters for the Legislative Council has been of no practical value to this—according to the *Patriot*—"the best and most cheaply governed of the British American Provinces. "The good government" enjoyed has been, in fact, due to universal suffrage. If, then, universal suffrage has done well while a useless Legislative Council existed, is there any good reason for supposing that it would not do well if the useless Legislative Council were abolished? None whatever.

It is remarked by John Stuart Mill that—

If there are two Houses, one considered to represent the people, the other to represent only a class, or not to be representative at all, I cannot think that where democracy is the ruling power in society, the second House would have any real ability to resist *even the aberrations of the first*. It might be suffered to exist, in deference to habit and association, but *not as an effective check*. If it exercised an independent will, it would be required to do so in the same general spirit as the other House, to be equally democratic with it, and to content itself with correcting the accidental oversights of the more popular branch of the legislature, or competing with it in popular measures.

We do not suppose that John Stuart Mill had the second House of Prince Edward Island in view when he made these remarks, but certainly it has been unable to resist even the "aberations of the first," as witness the legislation of the last two sessions.

If, then, the observations of John Stuart Mill be not at fault; if the contention of the people that the Legislative Council affords no protection to property-holders be a right contention, surely it is folly to retain the Legislative Council merely to enable property-holders to vote for a representative body which can do them no good and which costs them $7,000 or $8,000 a year!

The proper basis upon which electoral qualification should be established is a difficult and delicate question. With regard to a property qualification: We think property should undoubtedly have its due influence in the representative body of the Province. But we strongly incline to the opinion that property-holders indirectly obtain that influence by the exercise of the influence they necessarily and legitimately possess over persons with whom they are connected. Any man of property, who is reasonable and active, and has a show of right on his side, can, without either bribery or intimidation, or doing anything unlawful, influence the votes of one oe two poorer persons in favor of the candidate he supports. If he is not a man of sense and has not right on his side, then there is no reason why he should possess greater weight in the community than his poorer neighbor who is endowed with sense, and has right on his side. On this point the celebrated Lord Brougham remarks :—

"If the possession of certain pecuniary means at any one time showed him to be of that class which may safely be entrusted with the elective franchise, does his loss of these pecuniary means degrade him to an inferior class, and make him who was trustworthy last year not to be trusted this? Are his industry, sobriety, information, judgment, all gone with his money? At least, let us be consistent with ourselves, and admit that, having once been proved to be a fit person, he should be recognized as such ever after. The rule, to have any color of consistency with itself, should be—'Once a voter, always a voter.'

"But it seems, if possible, more absurd to adopt such a test, *or any test at all*, unless there is an absolute impossibility of obtaining the quality itself directly, or at least by much easier methods. If the possession of wealth is allowed to be a criterion of sense and information, all must admit it to be liable to error, as the most silly and ignorant of men may have it. So if it be taken as an evidence of industrious and sober habits, or of general respectability, the same uncertainity must be allowed to attend it."

On the whole, we see no good reason why the *Patviot's* second proposition should not be accepted.

But if it be thought that manhood suffrage has been a failure in this Province of ours; if it be thought that—should the Legislative Council be abolished—there should also be a change in the electoral franchise, why not consider whether or not it is expedient to make the possession of education and character qualifications for voting? By the exercise of a little ingenuity a plan could, we think, be invented by which our Free School system would be materially strengthened and improved, while the qualification of electors would be placed upon a basis as high as the interests of the Province demand.

Cost of Presidential Elections.

THE public moneys appear to have been squandered in a magnificent manner in the United States during the years of presidential contest from 1865 downwards. It is fairly estimated that during those years the "miscellaneous expenditures" were increased for the three presidental elections more than thirty millions of dollars over the preceding years, and ten millions more, including the Congress elections, in the intervening years. In other words, over forty millions of dollars expended by one political party only, as a "bribery and corruption" fund to carry elections! This spoliation is effected by lumping all the great variety of items for the civil list under the head of "miscellaneous expenditure," and presenting the account in that shape to Congress. This is making a "big push" in earnest, and "Come along, John, there's plenty of money," is indeed there no idle boast.

Russia.

WHILE the whole energy of Russian statesmen seems to be directed to fresh annexations and the aggrandizement of the empire as a military power, the domestic condition of the country threatens speedy social dissolution. Plots seem to be the normal employment of a large number of the people. Nihilism and other phases of discontent and rebellion are daily gaining fresh disciples. Loyalty, in our British sense, is a thing hardly known among the great mass of the population. And yet they love their country, and are susceptible of patriotic enthusiasm. If the rulers of Russia, instead of looking abroad for fresh fields to conquer, were to properly utilize the knowledge which they have gained by intercourse with and contemplation of other and happier nations, those millions of people would gradually solidify into a great nation, which would play no insignificant part by and by in the civilization and settlement of Asia. That, with its half barbarism, Russia should covet still more territory, and should undertake crusades for the improvement of other nations is worse than an absurdity.

Sir John Macdonald,

AS SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN SPECTACLES.

The New York *World*, in concluding a biographical sketch of the new Premier, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, says :—"Sir John strongly resembles the great Conservative Premier of England, Lord Beaconsfield. He also resembles him most strikingly in personal appearance; indeed a portrait of Disraeli would find ready sale in Canada as a life-like likeness of the 'Knight of Kingston.' Slightly above the medium height, slim, irreproachably dressed and buttoned up, close-shaved, pale and sallow, with dark hair and eyes, a prominent nose that looks a little Oriental at the nostrils, and a curl that 'hangs right down on his forehead,' the resemblance is remarkable, and Sir John has been thought not to be wholly unconscious of or indifferent to this fact. Sir John walks with a semi-limp and has hardly aged perceptibly during the last twenty years. He is a clear, easy and unaffected speaker, best in bebate, but no orator as McGee was. Even his finished orations on confederation, the best of his productions of that sort, will not encourage the general reader to their perusal. Personally, he is a charming companion, witty, agreeable and caustic, with a fund of anecdote. Lady Macdonald, his second wife, to whom he was married at St. George's, Hanover square, in 1857, immediately after the passage of the Confederation Act and at the time of his elevation to the rank of K. C. B., was a Miss Bernard, daughter of a member of the Jamaica Council, and sister of Sir John's Deputy Minister and friend, Colonel H. Bernard. She is much younger than her husband, to whom she is devoted, and her tact and fascination, it is said, prove powerful aids to him."

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Montreal on the formation of the new Cabinet, refers to the Premier as follows:—"When I addressed him to day he looked like a man in the prime of life, so jauntily did he bear himself. He bears a very striking resemblance personally to Benjamin Disraeli, the English Premier, and is personally the most popular man in Canada, politics out of the question."

Matrimony.

(*From the Toronto Mail.*)

In a young country like this, with a great North-West to open up, it would be well if early marriages were the rule. Were it not for our expensive ideas of living we believe early marriages would be much more common. If our readers will look around and observe they will see that those young men who marry early get on best in life. A man is always a better and abler man after marriage than before. It is not necessary to explain its philosophy even if we could; enough to state the undoubted fact. The improvement which marriage makes in men and their enhanced value to the State has been emphasized by lawgivers and thinkers. The celibate was despised in Lancedæmon. There is a dispute whether or not he was condemned by the laws of Solon. Certainly a passage in Demosthenes would indicate as much. Plato refused to admit a man who had not been married into the Administration of his ideal republic. Such a law, however, be it observed in passing would, would have deprived England of Pitt. Opinion, especially in modern times, is the great lever of reform, and no pains should be spared to impress on the mind of youth that an early, virtuous attachment culminating in marriage is the happiest of all human fates. The "blameless king" in recounting the oath he administered to his knights, says that among other things they swore "to love one woman only, and to cleave to her and worship her with years of noble deeds until they won her." For, adds the king, "I knew and know of no more subtle master under heaven than is the madien passion for a maid, not only to keep down the base in man, but teach him high thoughts, and amiable words, and courtliness, and the desire of fame, and love of truth, and all that makes a man." Such is the reflexive power of a pure love for a pure woman over imagination and will, over aim and hope. A woman of an evil, vicious turn of mind, whether she flounces in society or cowers in some nameless hovel, will crush down whatever is truthful and manly in the character of those whom she brings within her spell; while a good woman sheds around her a spring like air, that brings out all the freshness, and beauty, and strength, lately hidden in frozen concealment.

An Alcoholic Craze.

A WOMAN'S DESCENT FROM A SECOND STORY WINDOW TO THE STREET.

Mrs. Gillen lives in Mr. Hugh McDevitt's house on Main Street, Portland. She is reported as having been using stimulants rather freely of late, and yesterday morning she imagined that some man, whom she called Cassidy, was going to kill her, and ran into one of the neighbor's rooms begging them to protect her. They tried to quiet her, and induce her to remain with them. She would not be persuaded, but went to her own room in the second story, and, letting herself out of the window, hung on by her hands for some time; but, finding that hard work, let go and fell to the sidewalk. Her dress caught on a nail, however, and broke her fall, so that the only injury she received was a sprained wrist. Some of the neighbors led her into the house, and sent for Dr. Christie, who advised that she be kept quiet and liquor kept from her. He did not consider her insane, but attributed her strange actions to drink.—*Sun.*

IN St. John, the other day, a young man named McClintock fell a distance of thirty feet—striking upon his face and left shoulder, and breaking his jaw bone. He received several internal injuries.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

RAILWAY.

CHANGE OF TIME.

THE public will please note that a new TIME-TABLE will come into force **Monday, November 4th, 1878.**

C. J. BRYDGES, Gen. Supt. Gov. Ry's. | W. McKECHNIE Supt. P. E. I. R'y.

Ch'town, Oct. 21—pat 5i

Merchants Bank Notes

TAKEN AT THEIR FACE IN EXCHANGE FOR GOODS at the **London House.**

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Oct. 21—

TURNIPS. TURNIPS.

FOR SALE,

4,000 BUSHELS TURNIPS.

J. & T. MORRIS.

Ch'town, Oct. 21—pat 3i

COMMERCIAL

Union Assurance Company,

OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

Capital, Twelve Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars.

$12,500,000.00.

INSURANCE EFFECTED against Fire on all descriptions of Property throughout the Island.

☞ Low rates and prompt settlement of losses.

HORACE HASZARD,

Agent for P. E. Island.

Ch'town, Oct. 19—pat tf

A MUSICAL AND LITERARY

ENTERTAINMENT

WILL BE GIVEN IN THE

REFORM CLUB HALL,

On Wednesday, October 23,

UNDER the auspices of the WOMAN'S TEMPERANCE UNION. The Committee will endeavor to make this—the first Entertainment of the season—a success, and request a full house.

Admission - - - - 10 cents.

Doors open at 7.30 p. m., to commence at 8 o'clock. By order of the Committee.

L. JOST, Sec'y.

Ch'town, Oct. 19, 1878—

LOOK HERE! GOOD TIMES!

FOR FORTY DAYS the Subscriber will sell **Gravestones,** delivered at the SHOP. Notice the prices:

Headstones,	4 ft. 0 in. high,	24 in. wide,	2 in. thick, at $20
Do.	4 ft. 0 in.	22 "	2 " " 18
Do.	4 ft. 0 in.	20 "	2 " " 16
Do.	3 ft. 9 in.	18 "	2 " " 14
Do.	3 ft. 6 in.	16 "	2 " " 12

Headstones three inches thick in the same proportion.

Stock and workmanship guaranteed first-class.

☞ Produce taken at market rates.

KENT STREET, NEXT DOOR TO M. BUTCHER'S.

E. G. HUNTER.

Ch'town, Oct. 18—1w wkly 1m

REMOVAL.

THE Subscribers would respectfully announce that they have removed to that new studio in the new building south of Mr. Fraser's Drug Store, where they are prepared to furnish their patrons with

PHOTOGRAPHS

of every style, the quality and finish of which cannot be surpassed in America. Having had a long experience in some of the leading Photographic Studios in the United States, they are confident that they can guarantee satisfaction to their patrons.

The superior quality of their work is evident, and they are prepared to furnish several styles of Pictures that cannot be obtained elsewhere in the Province.

The public will find our prices very reasonable, and will receive their Photos in the shortest time consistent with first-class work. We make

PHOTOGRAPHS, TIN TYPES, GLACE PICTURES,

and the beautiful

PHOTO-CHROME,

which cannot be surpassed for its softness and delicacy.

☞ Old Pictures copied and enlarged. Faded Daugeretypes restored.

ROSS BROTHERS,

QUEEN STREET.

☞ Entrance opposite George Full's.

Ch'town, Oct. 18, 1878—1m eod

COAL. COAL.

TO ARRIVE in a few days, per schooner "Lively," **150 Tons** Gowrie Mines **NUT COAL.** Will be sold at $2.00 per ton —FOR CASH ONLY. This will be the last chance to get coal cheap this season.

W. KOUGHAN.

Ch'town, Oct. 18—3i eod

SUBSCRIBE for the **DAILY EXAMINER**, the Cheapest and most newsy Paper published in the Province.

TERPSICHORE HALL,

GREAT GEORGE ST.

NOTICE.

THE USUAL DANCING CLASSES at the above Hall will be formed on the evening of **THURSDAY next, the 24th inst.,** at 8 o'clock. All the old pupils—both Ladies and Gentlemen—and any others who wish to join are respectfully invited. No deduction for absent time only in case of sickness, and fees strictly half in advance.

An afternoon Class for Children will be opened at any time after, the hours for which to be agreed upon by their parents. Private tuition given as usual.

E. BURRIS.

Ch'town, Oct. 19—

SECOND

Annual Prize Meeting

—OF THE—

Queen's County Rifle Association.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23, 1878.

1st Competition.

Open to all members of the Association. Ranges 200 and 400 yards—5 shots at each range. Entrance fee, 25 cents.

2nd Competition.

Same qualification as 1st. Range 500 yards —seven rounds. Entrance fee, 25 cents.

Prizes will also be given to the two highest aggregate scores at this meeting.

Prizes will be apportioned on day of match

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person paying one dollar previous to commencement of matches will become a *bona fide* member of the Association and entitled to compete for any of the prizes.

The shooting will be governed by the rules of the Provincial Rifle Association for 1878.

Firing will commence at 8 o'clock, sharp, on day of match.

The Council intend making this a very interesting meeting; and, besides the annual allowance from the Dominion, they have secured, through private subscription, considerable sums to swell the list of prizes.

EWEN MACDOUGALL,

Secretary.

Oct. 16—eod t match

Merchants Bank Notes

TAKEN AT THEIR FACE in exchange for GOODS.

Oct. 15—5i R. BRIDGES.

EDUCATIONAL.

CHARLOTTETOWN

Young Ladies' Institution.

BY the kind permission of the Rector and Vestrymen, the classes in connection with this Institution will meet in **St. Paul's Schoolroom,** *pending future arrangements*

J. CUNNINGHAM DUNLOP.

Oct. 14—3i

NOTICE.

PERSONS who took THE EXAMINER before the DAILY EXAMINER was issued, and have not yet paid for it, will please send the amounts of their respective accounts, without delay, to

W. L. COTTON.

EXAMINER OFFICE, Ch'town, Oct. 17, 1878. } dy & wkly

DR. CREAMER,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,

Kent Street, Charlottetown,

(Three doors from Dr. Johnson's).

☞ *ENTRANCE BY SIDE DOOR.* ☜

Oct. 15—3m

RANKIN HOUSE,

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

J. J. DAVIES - - - Proprietor

(Formerly of St. Lawrence Hotel, Pictou).

THIS well-known Hotel is now open under the present management; and, having been newly furnished throughout, it offers every comfort to the travelling public. Suitable Sample Rooms for commercial gentlemen.

Oct. 15, 1878—3m

Prime Labrador Herring.

JUST ARRIVED PER SCHR. "ADA R."

DIRECT FROM LABRADOR, 1,037 Barrels PRIME HERRING, which we are selling cheap at PEAKE'S NO. 2. WHARF.

MATTHEW, McLEAN & HEARTZ.

Ch'town, Oct. 18—dy pat 4in

VESSELS FOR CHARTER.

FOR GREAT BRITAIN, UNITED STATES, WEST INDIES.

Apply to FENTON T. NEWBERY & CO.

Oct. 17—3i

Coal for Sale.

PICTOU NUT AND ROUND COAL for sale at Water Street. Apply to

CAPT. JOHN HUGHES, or

HENRY SELLERS, City Scales.

Oct. 3—

THE place toget your Printing done is at the **EXAMINER Printing Rooms**