

times, do what reason, law, and justice say they ought not to do, it is his bounden duty, on all such occasions—whether, for party or any other purpose, the rights of the crown be invaded, or the liberties of the people be assailed—to oppose, to the abuse of parliamentary privilege, the wholesome exercise of the royal prerogative; and—much in the spirit, if not in the words, of Oliver Cromwell, when, most unceremoniously dismissing the Long Parliament—to say, to any House of Assembly, arrogating to itself

A delegated right to govern wrong,

“For shame! Give place to honest men; to those who will more faithfully discharge their trust. You are no longer a parliament: I tell you, you are no longer a parliament. THE COUNTRY has done with you.”—That Earl Grey is not of opinion that an appointment of a member of Assembly to a seat in the Executive Council, unconnected with any government office of emolument, vacates his seat in the Assembly, is evident from a recommendation of the noble Secretary for the Colonies, contained in his Responsible Government Despatch to Sir John Harvey, and expressed in these words: “It may very probably be advisable to assign salaries to two or three of the Executive Councillors as such;” the object being to render their seats in the Executive Council political, and, consequently to make it necessary for any member of the Assembly on receiving such a *salariated* appointment, to vacate his seat in the Assembly, and return to his constituents.

A statement of the proceedings, both of the Assembly and of the Executive, together with the opinion of the Crown Law Officers, relative to the appointment of Mr. Warburton to a seat in the Executive Council, has, we understand, been already forwarded by His Excellency Sir Donald, to Earl Grey; and this will speedily be followed by what is, we believe, meant for a sort of counter-statement, issuing from the UNITARIAN majority of the House, and intended for a justification of their high-handed, not to say arbitrary decisions with respect to the legislative seats of Mr. Warburton and Mr. Coles. At the expiration of a few weeks, we shall, doubtless, be in possession of the authoritative opinion of Her Majesty's Government, in reference to the facts contained in these statements; and, should it, as we expect it will, be in favour of that of the Colonial Law Officers of the Crown; and should the Speaker and his party refuse to recede from their position, as they have declared that, in such case, they would; the difficulty can be overcome only by the remedy indicated by the Speaker himself—A DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY, and the calling of a NEW HOUSE.

[From the London Times, January 19]

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Our attention has been called to various abuses existing in the administration of our smaller North American colonies. It would appear that the management of public affairs has, in too many instances, in these remote districts of the empire got into the hands of little knots of irremovable officials. The natural consequence has been that in them a system of the grossest jobbery and corruption has sprung up. Family exclusiveness and nepotism, with all their attendant evils, have irritated the great mass of the various populations against the holders of such offices. Thus much was natural. The family officials have, however, we are told, gone further than this. We will take one instance—that of Prince Edward Island.

The theory of the constitution, as worked out in this province is well worthy of attention. It is just now engaged in a struggle with anomalies. Civil discord runs high. The many are at odds with the few. It is the old game over again that has been, or is to be, played out in every society of men which has based its institutions on the civilization of the Old World. The relations between a mother-country and a colony add another element of complication to the oscillations of party, and the difficulties inseparable from such a contest. In one sense this is so; in another the preponderating influence of the metropolis may be advantageously used to bring matters to a speedy, just, and intelligible issue. Earl Grey may throw a despatch, as Brennus did his sword, into the scale. Mr. Hawse may, from his office in Downing-street, indite a postscript to the letter of his chief, and, like the *Deus ex machina*, reconcile all anomalies, suppress all jealousies, and undo the tangled web of civil discord with a few peremptory words.

In order to make this matter intelligible to our readers we would put this hypothetical case:—Suppose that instead of our present system of the choice of a Cabinet by the Sovereign, the representation of the people, and the responsibility of Ministers, Lord John Russell and his colleagues were invested permanently with the offices they at present hold on a precarious tenure. Give them, moreover, power to nominate their successors. It might be, they would so administer the affairs of the country as to deserve the continued approbation of their Royal mistress, and to extract nightly salvos of applause from Her Majesty's Opposition. Sir Robert Peel might, month after month, exhaust every figure of speech in praise of Lord John. Mr. Joseph Hume, on a committee of ways and means, might fairly sink under a sense of his insufficient powers of eulogy; Lord George Bentinck add weight by his figures, and Mr. John O'Connell by his facts, to the measures introduced by those responsible persons who, in a Parliamentary sense, might,

perhaps, still be called Her Majesty's Administration. But, again, this picture of Saturnian happiness might be very far from the reality of things. The Queen might be displeased with her advisers. Hostile majorities might spring up in either House. Not only the representatives, but the great body of the nation, might entirely withdraw their confidence from the permanent Ministry. What then? The Ministry would remain. In the teeth of Sovereign, Parliament, and nation, they would continue to hold office, and to administer the affairs of the country. That is just all.

Now, such, we are told, is the present situation not only of Prince Edward Island, but of more than one other North American colony. There is a Governor appointed by the Crown, and a Representative Assembly elected by the people. An Executive Council is, however, interposed between them, who, if we have got at the truth of conflicting statements, are precisely in the situation we have just attributed to the permanent Ministry. Sir H. V. Huntley, the Lieutenant-Governor of the province we have named, was, it appears, the most conspicuous mark of the hatred of these gentlemen, who, in the political polemics of the island, have received the sobriquet of the ‘Family Compact,’ or the ‘Black Watch.’ The Representative Assembly have been busily occupied, session after session, in pronouncing futile philippics against this small knot of irremovable officials, yet they remain at their posts despite of Governor and Assembly. This would seem to be the strangest form of the theory of the constitution that has ever obtained in any of our colonies. We can understand such a case as that of Canada, where the struggle was for a responsible Executive; nor is the opposite extreme, that of the irresponsibility of the officials to any other power than the Crown, less intelligible. Great influences are striving for superiority, and under either system the affairs of the colony might be administered without gross disadvantage to the public interests. In the history of the Canadas, to recur to our recent illustration, there was also a ‘Family Compact,’ who were in possession of the higher public offices, who distributed the minor patronage, and whose influence was at one time paramount in the Executive and Legislative Councils. This body, too, was constantly at war with the Assembly, but on their retention of a majority, their existence, as a power might be said in a great measure to depend. Not so in Prince Edward Island. It is evident such a system can never work well, and if all the charges alleged against the irremovable officials in this province be true, it has actually led to the grossest abuses.

The enmity displayed by the ‘Family Compact’ to Sir H. V. Huntley is said to have originated in an inquiry he has instituted into their proceedings. It is affirmed that in the process of this inquiry, facts have come to light which tend very little to the credit of the ‘Family’ officials.

[Here follows an enumeration of several allegations, in which the parties alluded to are concerned—which, for obvious reasons, we have omitted.—ED. EXR.]

All these charges may or may not be true; it is sufficient to excite the utmost dissension in a colony that they should be made. But there is a speedy remedy for this. Why should not the Council in Prince Edward Island, and in every other colony similarly circumstanced, be put on the same footing as that in Canada? Let their tenure of office be made dependent on their retaining the confidence of the Assembly. It is the result of our experience in the United Kingdom, that no evil has arisen from intrusting the people, by their representatives, with the management of their own affairs. In Canada, perhaps an instance more in point, nothing but good has happened in consequence of the adoption of much the same policy. The power of dismissing a Ministry should be lodged somewhere, so much is clear. It is little less so that the theory of the constitution, as understood in the mother-country, should be of universal application in her colonies, when they have gained sufficient importance, or have been settled a sufficiently long time to admit of its application. Such a system as that we have described in Prince Edward Island, merely requires to be known to be reformed. It is only wonderful how long corruption can hold its own in some obscure nook of the empire, from the insignificance of the parties concerned, and the absence of publicity. This is, however, no argument at all. The smallest, as well as the most important colonies, of Great Britain have an equally strong claim to the fostering care of the mother-country. Colonies have their rights as well as their duties. The subject has, we are aware, received the attention of Lord Grey; and a couple of hours well employed would be sufficient to overthrow the intrigues of years, and to remove the heart-burnings and well-founded complaints of an estimable body of men, who have never shown themselves deficient in loyalty to the Crown of Great Britain.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF QUEEN'S COUNTY, FROM ONE OF THEMSELVES.

“A long pull and a strong pull.”
“Who would be free: themselves must strike the blow.”

FRIENDS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN;
By the insidious machinations and intrigues of that dominant faction, which has so long fattened undisturbed upon the spoils of the people; your courageous, independent, and patriotic representative, the Hon. George Coles, has been again, illegally and unconstitutionally,

ejected from that seat in the Assembly to which you had—in spite of the most arbitrary attempts to intimidate you—so nobly returned him. I know too well the men by whom he has been supported in this struggle, to believe that they will submit to be dictated to and controlled in the exercise of their franchise, by an imperious *Chique*, composed of Family Compact men, Storekeepers and Agents (with some few honorable exceptions), who have grown rich, whilst their masters have not been so fortunate; and who, whilst gulping the oyster themselves, have left you to ruminate upon the shells—who are supported in the Assembly by those would-be Sampsons, who are ever striving to scatter their opponents by the terror of their jawbones; and endeavouring, by their arbitrary measures, to retain in their grasp the power they so shamefully abuse.

But, let me ask you, my friends, why is this system of vexation and persecution pursued towards Mr. Coles? Is it not because he has dared to speak out unpleasant truths? Is it not because he has dared, in his place in the Assembly, to denounce that system of influence by family connection and accommodation which has been so much complained of? Is it not because he has had the courage to speak in the face of all men, what others, less intrepid, only whisper at the corners of the streets? Is it not because he is sprung from ourselves, and has, by his industry and intelligence, raised himself to the station he now so deservedly occupies, and that little envious, narrow-minded souls hate to see the elevation to which he has attained? Is it not because he is the pledged opponent of all speculation and fraud? and the devoted champion of the interests of the agricultural population?

Recollect, my friends, the “dark and poisoned curtain,” and the last words of one who suffered the bitterest enmity and contumely for your sakes; and look round upon the neighbouring Provinces; and, encouraged by the success which has attended their efforts to rid themselves of an injurious domination, take every occasion and opportunity to establish your own freedom.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!!

NOTICE TO THIN-SKINNED MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.—We have taken particular care to omit from this, our present edition any observations respecting voting, that would be likely to wound the sensitive feelings of members of the Assembly. Our Printer's Devil has presented us, however, with a very piquant paragraph on the subject of a short debate in the House last night, commenced by the very honourable(?) junior member for Georgetown. This paragraph will be inserted in the *Country edition only*—(for we do intend to print a *Country edition* this week.) The Printer's Devil regrets that he has no talent for caricaturing, else he would furnish his readers with a portrait of the very honourable junior member for Georgetown, as an accompaniment to his observations.

THE FORLORN HOPE OF THE BLACK WATCH.
The Compact Party, having spent a whole fortnight in coaxing and wheedling certain gentlemen, who were supposed to be a little soft in the horns, with the view to get up an opposition to the Hon. Mr. Coles, at the approaching Election, have at length succeeded in procuring a CHAMPION—we were about to write VICTIM—in the shape of one Neil McCallum, who lives at a place called Kintyre. Now, Neil is a brave fellow, and a very interesting animal withal—physically considered; but we doubt, very much, his ability to captivate the hearts of the Electors. It would not, however, be so easy to determine his chances of success were ladies privileged to vote; but in that case, friend Neil would, perhaps, be subjected to a good deal of annoyance, as every fair elector might be induced to insist upon obtaining a lock of his hair, in return for the bestowal of her franchise. Mr. McCallum says he can speak the Gaelic language; certainly, the possession of this accomplishment constitutes a very manifold claim to public support; and it may be difficult for the supporters of the Executive Council, who speak only intelligible and sensible English, to overcome it. Had Mr. Coles learned to speak Gaelic, and used this language only in all his exposures and denunciations of public abuses and official delinquencies, he might have retained, until this very hour, the countenance of the Compact Party and their caddies, in and out of the Assembly. We have been told by those who understand the language, that the Gaelic is a very harmless and inoffensive form of speech; and as it is very probable that the eloquence of the new candidate will be made to flow through that channel, on the day of the election, we hope the uninitiated will not be led to believe that it is used with any intention to excite them to turbulence or disquietude,—but that they will listen to him with as much good feeling and complacency as they would if he were giving them—what we think he ought to give—a Gaelic version of the opening Speech in Shakespeare's play of King Richard the Third.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—We have not space to give an abstract of the proceedings in the Assembly during the past week. Very little business of any great public importance was transacted. A Bill to encourage Seal Fishery, by providing a bounty on tonnage, and on the catch, was discussed and read a second time.—Last evening several resolutions providing for a settlement of our monetary affairs, in accordance with the views of Earl Grey, were discussed and adopted in Committee.

NOTICE.

The Office Containing the Standard Weights and Measures, is kept in Great George Street, at the Store of John F. Clark & Co.

P. G. CLARK,
Assayer of Weights and Measures.

February 26th, 1843.
Treasurer's Office, Feb. 22, 1848.
WARRANTS to Number Three Hundred and Twenty-five (325) of the date of the 3d of July, 1845, will be paid at the Treasury on demand, together with the interest due thereon.
J. SPENCER SMITH, Treasurer.