

terval to-day, and must enjoy the privilege of speaking of ourselves and of our labours.

In the Summer of 1843, fresh from the scene of Liberal Politics in Nova Scotia, and flushed with the inspiring hope of being in no small measure, accessory to a change in our social condition, such as that which has since been effected, with immense advantage, in nearly all the other Provinces, we introduced ourselves to the notice of the public through the columns of THE PALLADIUM. For well nigh two years we steadily exposed and assailed the abuses of the existing government—encountered the hostility of men in power, and that of their dependents, by vindicating the claims of the poor to exemption from oppression and proscription, and their right to the enjoyment, in common, of every political privilege which the Constitution of the Mother Country will allow. Our reward was such—and bitter experience has taught us the lesson—as falls to the lot of nearly every public man who trusts to the generosity rather than the justice of a non-reading public—who are incapable of appreciating the value of intellectual labour when its continuance depends solely upon their pecuniary assistance. In the Spring of 1845 we ceased to publish the Palladium, and devoted the remainder of that year chiefly to the arrangement of its affairs, intending to leave the Island early in the following summer. After, however, the prorogation of Parliament in 1846 again we became embroiled, through the misrepresentations of the *Constitutionalist*, in the party squabbles of the time, and were persuaded by some political friends to undertake the editorial management of the *Morning News*, which we held up to the death of its proprietor, advocating the same principles as those for which we contended in the *Palladium*, and for which we have continued to struggle up to the present hour. At the Election of August, 1846, being solicitous to promote not only by our writings, but our votes, the views of that Party with which we had become connected, and in whose success we had felt a stronger interest than ever, because of the persecutions and calumnies with which we were assailed—we sought and obtained a seat in the Legislature. Incurring this responsibility—and morally bound to serve out the term of our senatorial apprenticeship, we were constrained to abandon the project of removing from the Island, and set about resuming our former occupation. The publication of THE EXAMINER in 1847 was, therefore, the result of our own election. Had we been unentrusted with the confidence of a constituency, that paper would never have appeared, and it is more than probable, the field in which we have ever since toiled as a public journalist would have found no one to encounter its difficulties and perils. We cannot stop to trace the progress of events through '47, '48, and '49, nor revert in detail to any of the services performed for our party by the Journal of which we had control, during those years. Suffice it to say, that the principal object of our care—the introduction of Responsible Government—believing as we did, and do still believe, that to be the one thing needful, the stepping-stone to every measure of improvement and reform, the beacon by which the Augean stable of our Government was to be cleansed of its impurities—suffice it to say, we repeat,

that this question was every year rising in importance and popularity; and we think that we cannot be charged with an undue vanity in asserting, that our paper was mainly entitled to the credit of making it understood and appreciated. Our reward was still any thing but encouraging:—in 1849 several hundred pounds were due to us by THE EXAMINER'S subscribers; and with so large an amount of arrears on our books, our energies were, of course, crippled, and our spirit discouraged. We suspended the publication, as we were unable to attend to its management personally, and at the same time to our duties in the Legislature, then in Session, the backwardness of our subscribers leaving us without the means of employing additional force to carry it on. We trusted the suspension would enable us, during the recess, to collect our dues; but will it be credited, that up to this time, by far the greater part of them remain unsettled.

Still loth to desert our party whilst the common enemy was unconquered, and when every day was bringing us nearer and nearer to the consummation of our desires, our feelings deeply interested in the struggle, nursing, we will confess it, as hearty a hatred for the domineering spirit of our adversaries as that with which our veins tingled in times past, and impatient of our self-imposed restraint—we once again plucked the sword from the scabbard, and turned our face to the foe.

We had hardly resumed our editorial labours in January last, when an important and apparently unforeseen event, rendered the establishment of a liberal Journal of the utmost consequence to the advancement of the popular interests.—From February 1849 up to that period the Liberals had no means of communicating through the Press their sentiments to the public. Two of the papers then in being were, as hitherto, avowedly hostile to the party, and the third observed a decided neutrality in politics. Party feeling rose high. The claims of rival candidates for legislative honours were every where the subject of discussion; but though the Liberals might have had the best of the argument in occasional fireside conversations, and canvassing peregrinations, their influence would have been immensely curtailed throughout the Island generally, had there been no Press to advocate their principles. THE EXAMINER at once supplied the desideratum—discussed and re-discussed the principles of the party counteracted misrepresentation, and diffused information upon many topics which had for months been dead as Julius Cæsar, and just then disenthroned to serve the purposes of the Election. We do not suppose that without our Press the Party would not have been triumphant; but, at the same time, we trust we shall not be deemed presumptuous in believing that the influence of THE EXAMINER availed not a little in obtaining a majority of Liberals to the Assembly.

The events of the two short Sessions which followed the General Election, and the course pursued by THE EXAMINER in relation to them, are too fresh in the remembrance of the public to need particular recital. We have laboured to defend on nearly every point the proceedings of the House, for they were, in the main, such as we publicly anticipated would have to be adopted, in the event

of a refusal on the part of the Governor to comply with its demands. We suggested the vote of want of confidence—we counselled the stoppage of Supplies as a *dernier resort*. The only measure as to the propriety of which we entertained a doubt, was the proposal to compensate retiring officers by giving them subordinate situations. The motive which dictated this proposal we perfectly understood,—it did not spring from a conviction that these officers had any claim whatsoever on the party making the proposal, but from a desire to bring to a speedy settlement the differences existing between the House and the Lieutenant-Governor. The subsequent bad faith of the latter shewed how little he appreciated the motive of the House, and confirmed us in our dislike of the proposal. We forebore, however, to urge our objection publicly, choosing rather to set at rest our own opinions on the matter, than to encourage our adversaries by the appearance of dissension amongst ourselves. We have reason to believe now, that if the House were called upon to commence its negotiations and proceedings *de novo*, no such proposal would be made.

Whether, then, THE EXAMINER has been serviceable in defending the position of the House since the prorogation in May last—whether its publications have been suitable antidotes to the poison distilled through the columns of contemporary Journals, we must leave our readers to determine. It is quite probable these poisons would never have taken effect with our own people, even had we not published a line; but it is not unreasonable to believe that our fellow subjects abroad, in the Mother Country and the colonies, where the motives and passions of our adversaries are not so easily seen through as they are here—would have totally misjudged the conduct and capacity of the Assembly, from the highly coloured, and, in many cases, positively false representations of the opposite Press, had our Paper failed to counteract such representations, and set every matter in its true light.

So much having been written in allusion to the political character of THE EXAMINER, that we have left ourselves little or no space to refer to other matters connected with it. It has been constantly our desire to make it attractive as a depository of select literature—diffusive of a sound and healthy taste for such reading only as serves to improve the heart, whilst it strengthens and informs the understanding,—and likewise as the faithful chronicler of every passing event which it is the province of the Newspaper to record; but we must acknowledge that we have frequently been compelled to forego the gratification of this desire, in order to give up our time and space to the discussion of party questions, often forced upon public attention for the worst purposes by some of our contemporary journals. The determination we have formed to discontinue the Semi-Weekly issue, and, when necessary arrangements are made, to put out THE EXAMINER once a week, on a sheet double the size of the present—will the better enable us to carry out the object of giving our Paper a more general, literary, and miscellaneous character than it is possible to impart to the smaller sheet, as we will then have about 24 columns in one number to fill with reading matter, while now the demands upon our space for advertisements, allow us only 16 columns for the two issues. This arrangement will, as a matter of course, involve additional expense and labour,—and before resorting to it, we must insist upon all our subscribers who are in arrears paying us at once and without trouble, the amount of their bills. To those only who have paid us regularly shall we in future send the EXAMINER, believing that a limited list of subscribers who pay with cheerfulness when called upon, is far more safe and profitable than a circulation of thousands, which includes many whose accounts must lie over for years, and many more of the great unwashed, who never think of the Printer, but when they take a fancy to send him an impertinent and threatening message, should accident at any time prevent them from receiving their papers.

A STALE TRICK.

THE editor of the *Islander* publishes an article in his last paper in which he labours to shew that the *Examiner* designed to insult the whole farming population of this Island because it gave publicity to a communication, in which Duncan was numerously styled a "meal-man," and quizzed for his love of porridge and *gaspereaux*! We don't believe that the public, on whom this trick is attempted to be practised, in the hope that it may arouse ill will against us, and create favour for Maclean—are quite so foolish as to care a rush about what Duncan eats, or any particular name by which he may be described. The inference on this point, drawn from the article headed "a voice from the interior," is totally unwarranted by the premises: to say that Duncan eats porridge, is not, we think, any more of a reproach than it would be to say he ate roast beef and plum-pudding; the misfortune is, perhaps, that he has not the latter as often as the former. Before trading on the sympathy of the farmers, Maclean should retract the numberless insults he has flung in their face since he became the mercenary tool of the official faction. We ask, is it no insult to the farmers and others to be told continually that they are incapable of exercising the privilege of self-government? Is it no insult to the farmers and others to be asked to continue their countenance and support to an Oligarchy that has uniformly despised the people—rejected their complaints—fattened on their taxes—increased their burdens, and laughed at the idea of popular controul becoming a principle of our Government? Is it no insult to the farmers to be told that in their selection of Representatives, in 17 or 18 instances out of 24, they displayed the grossest ignorance and folly—that they abused their privilege of the elective franchise—that Duncan Maclean, and his employers in Charlottetown, who have a direct interest in getting a packed and corrupt House of Assembly, have a better knowledge of the exact description of men that should be invested with legislative power than all the constituencies in the Island put together? Is it no insult to the farmers to be told that the men of their free choice, are ignorant, selfish and unprincipled—that they are swindlers and betrayers of public rights? There was scarcely a number of the *Islander* issued since the last Election but what will be found to contain insulting reflections such as these; and yet the shameless editor of that print works himself into a passion on being reminded of his oatmeal, and calls upon the whole farming community to stamp with their disapproval the fancied offence! He must have considered them very foolish and thin-skinned indeed, when he penned his ranting appeal to their sympathy.

Duncan, evidently, cannot bear to believe that anything which appears in this paper is written beyond the precincts of our office. The letter from our friend in Aberdeen was said to be so much in our own style, that Maclean was quite sure it was written by us—thus shewing what an excellent judge in matters of style is the man of boasted literary attainments. The "Voice from the Interior," again, bears, says Maclean, "strong indications of Charlottetown," and suspects it to have been written by "Whelan," but if not written by "Whelan" he observes, "he