

so, and still to continue in office. What, I ask, would be the fate of a merchant, or manufacturer, if all his servants secretly conspired to undermine his reputation? The hon. member for Charlottetown has charged me with sinister motives. He says I want to become the leader of a party. I deny any such motive. My ready support shall be given to any and every measure tending to benefit my constituents, and the general interests of the colony; and any measure that might prove injurious to their interests, shall never find a more strenuous opponent than myself. I am pleased to see that this question will be generally supported, and that the enemies of the people's interests will be defeated. The question—what have the Executive been guilty of? has been put to me so often by the hon. member for Charlottetown, that I deem it my duty to give him a reply, although I have no desire to enter on the performance of a task which is not pleasing to myself, and much less to others, who must be somewhat concerned in the remarks I shall have to make, but to all of whom I am not disposed to attach much blame. I condemn the Government for sanctioning the bartering away of public offices. The first I have to notice is the Prothonary's office, which was bought by the present occupant, Mr. D. Hodgson, who no doubt considered that as the Island increased in population, it would become a profitable one. The important office of the Treasuryship of this Island was once made a trading transaction; it was hired out by the Head of the Executive. It was held by Mr. Gray—his son succeeded him: but the latter having left the Island, a Mr. Campbell succeeded him; but there having been a strong resentment shewn by another expectant, opportunity was sought, and charges made against the Treasurer,—his accounts underwent examination, and he was found to be so in default that he had to forfeit the situation. It was then offered to the other expectant, the present Colonial Secretary. A nephew of the then Governor was in England, anticipating a situation there, and Mr. Haviland was told if this gentleman succeeded, he (Mr. H.) should have the Treasuryship, or the Comptrollership; but the former, to choose which, the nephew did again return to the Island, and, on his arrival, he wished to monopolize both offices; but the matter was accommodated by Mr. Haviland's undertaking to pay the other party one hundred pounds per annum for the Treasuryship. Mr. Haviland wishing to rid himself of this yearly payment, on the death of Mr. Collins, the then Colonial Secretary, a regular exchange or bartering of offices took place. Mr. Haviland gave up the offices of Treasurer and Provost Marshall,—the former was given to the Collector of Excise, and the latter to his own son, then in his minority, at a salary of £150 per annum; and Mr. Haviland took the offices of Colonial Secretary, Private Secretary, Registrar of Deeds, and Clerk to the Legislative and Executive Councils, and the Excise office fell into the hands of the brother-in-law of the former occupant, a Mr. Smith; so that the whole of this shifting about of offices was in some way or other for the benefit of one family, and in close connection with a large majority of the Executive Council, who were in no way responsible to the people. The last circumstance of this nature was the sale of the Solicitor General's office. True it is, there was an enquiry made, and the fact was denied. It could not, indeed, be clearly shown that Mr. Lawson and the present occupant had made the office a matter of bargain. Be this as it may, the one gave up the office, and a stranger to the colony stepped into his place. In order to guard against such unconstituted practices, I desire to see a change in the Government, and which, I am most sanguine, will be brought about by making the Executive Council responsible to the people. Hon. members often charge me with the sin of seeking for office; but if I were guilty of this very heinous crime, I at least have not stooped to the disreputable practices of others, who succeeded in obtaining office at the sacrifice of honor, honesty, and justice, in order to provide for their sons. This charge is, however, brought merely to blind the public to my motives, and because it is the only pretext they can apply as an offset to the unpalatable truths which I am ready to give them. My object is to establish a system by which merit may stand a chance of competition with the old Family Compact; then the Representatives of the people may be enabled to take a deep interest in the business of Government. I do not attach the blame, arising from the system of barter I have been describing, to the Councils; they could not expect to give up advantages till called upon by the people. The people now call for a change; they see that such a change has been adopted in the other Colonies; they see that Earl Durham, Lord John Russell, and Lord Glenelg, have recommended it; they see that these wise and great men have denounced the system of holding offices as vested rights. Much has been said about party. I can only say I wish the leader of a party in this House had turned a little sooner,—I allude to the hon. Speaker. He condemns the present Executive for many things; and hints that he has something more in store for them. I can only say that I hope one who must naturally be a good judge, will continue in his present mood, till we get at this something in the back ground. Be this as it may, I expect, before another four years pass over our heads, to find that there were other reasons than those yet come to light, to induce the present office-holders to stick tenaciously to their places. How, Sir, can a House stand that is divided against itself? Or, in plain language, how can a Government be conducted for the ge-

neral welfare, when all the ministers oppose the head of it? Where is the honor in thus acting? Why do they not resign, and then there would be something manly in their conduct. Great opposition, out of doors, is attempted, to defeat the question now under consideration. I have no difficulty in tracing this opposition to its source. It comes, Sir, from those who are well content with things as they are—the monopolizers of the public offices, and from them alone. The Press of this Island, Sir, is bought over. The *Gazette*, it is true, does not openly work; but we have pretty strong grounds for supposing that its type has been used to libel the Head of that Government from which the proprietor derives about £600 per annum. I think, Sir, the hon. member for Charlottetown will now hardly ask of me again "What have the Government done to merit condemnation?" And I think, Sir, if the Committee do not support a Responsible form of Government, the constituents of many of them will have just cause to say they have been deceived. I am not particular as to the details, but I wish to see a certain degree of responsibility to this House imposed on officials, and that they shall be bound to support the Government. I will not detain the Committee any longer, feeling, Sir, that other hon. members are desirous to express their opinions, and, I doubt not, are all prepared to support some modification of a Responsible form of Government, that will prevent public offices from ever again becoming matters of sale or barter; for, if reports are true, we have to thank His Excellency that such a system is not, at the present time, in full operation.

It is not necessary for me to comment upon the topics adverted to in the above Speech. Mr. Coles holding opinions so inimical to the best interests of the *Black Watch*, could scarcely expect to escape the opposition that was so strenuously offered to his re-election by that Party; nor could Sir H. V. Huntley fail to incur their enmity, from the circumstance of his having placed Mr. Coles in a position that would enable him to guard, to some extent, against their corruption, and check their ascendancy.

REFLECTOR.

Queen's County, August 10, 1847.

P. S.—I am constrained to forego the pleasure, which I promised to myself and the readers of *The Examiner*, of exposing the fallacy and absurdity of Mr. J. H. Conroy's mode of determining how Mr. Rae abandoned his principles in recommending and sanctioning the appointment of Mr. Coles. But as I mean to have a little further gossip with the party to which Mr. Conroy belongs, before the dog-days shall have passed, I promise not to overlook the claims and pretensions of this worthy gentleman.

THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1847.

THE DELEGATION PETITION.

The *Islander* of yesterday published the Petition with which Messrs. Pope, Palmer, Collard and company have thought fit to impose on the credulity of the people of this Island. Nothing that we have ever read or heard of, can compass the effrontery and impudence—the recklessness of principle and honour—the palpable, staring, monstrous violation of truth which this Petition in almost every sentence exhibits. It prefers a variety of charges against the Lieutenant Governor, not one of which is proved—not one of which is susceptible of proof. When men, who had some little credit for honour and veracity, can stand up in the face of day and hiss the lies of this Petition through their teeth, it is not unreasonable to conclude, that they are fit for any disreputable business that they imagine will subserve their views. In our next No. we shall show the futility of the charges preferred.

As for the Delegates, they go, perhaps, more from a desire to enjoy the "otium cum dignitate" which a few weeks sojourn in London may afford, than with any rationally-founded expectation of hood-winking the Colonial Minister by their sophistry and falsehood. We offer our sympathy to the dupes who have subscribed their "pounds, shillings and pence," so that the Delegates may "eat, drink and be merry," on their Quixotic expedition.

"SENDING YOUR COMPLIMENTS TO THE QUEEN."

The long experience which Mr. Joseph Pope has had in political quackery, has doubtless abundantly satisfied him that desperate cases require desperate remedies. This veracious individual—finding his influence growing "beautifully less" among the 50,000 freemen whom he once boasted of representing—is obliged to resort

to his old trade—not of basket-making or Ship-building—but of misrepresenting facts and betraying the judgment of the credulous, in order to procure signatures to the "bill of particulars" with which he hopes to tickle the fancy of the Colonial Minister. The following affidavit has been just brought to us by a gentleman from Bedeque, who informs us that many more of a similar character may be procured. It speaks largely for the nature of the opposition offered to the Lieutenant Governor, and for the honesty of the presiding genius of Bedeque.

James Conolly personally appeared before me, and upon Oath stated that one day in last week Joseph Pope, Esq., called upon deponent and said, that if deponent wished to send his respects to Her Majesty, he would with his permission, note down his name for that purpose, to which deponent consented. Deponent further stated that he has since heard that in reality his name was not obtained for the purpose mentioned, but to petition Her Majesty not to continue Sir Henry Vere Huntley in the Government of this Island, which he would not have signed upon any account, had not he been imposed upon by Joseph Pope, Esq., being of opinion that the continuing of Sir Henry in the Colony would be advantageous to the best interests of its inhabitants generally.

Sworn before me this 13th day of August, 1847.

JOHN LORD, J. P.

A MISSTATEMENT IN THE "ISLANDER."

The *Islander* asserts that the Petition got up by some members of the Liberal Party, praying Her Majesty to continue Sir H. V. Huntley in the Government of the Colony, "was kept a secret." Never was any thing more erroneous.

As soon as a number of copies of the Petition was issued from the Press, they were sent to all parts of the country, and there made as public as possible in the obtaining of signatures. Nothing was more open—nothing less concealed—than every thing that was done in reference to the Petition. As the people of the *Islander* Establishment seem so scandalized at the apparent secrecy of the affair—why did the *Black Watch* observe so much secrecy and dread of public opinion, in their proceedings, when they set about concocting a Petition? Has so long a time elapsed since the Meetings at Pippy's, at Peake's, at Yates's, at Alex. MacLean's, as to be forgotten by the *Islander*: and is it also forgotten, that these Meetings were private—exclusive? Why did not the advocates and supporters of Family Compact Influence—who are anxious to effect the removal of the only Governor that has ever successfully assailed the corrupt system which they seek to perpetuate—why did they not cause public Meetings to be convened, and then ascertain the opinions of the People? They knew they could not safely resort to so hazardous a measure; as they had too much reason to fear that the feelings and sympathies of the people were against them. This is no idle assertion—it is a truth which every honest man will learn who travels through the interior. At this moment, we dare the Compact or their adherents to call a public meeting in any District or section of the Island, and present the preposterous charges which they have preferred against the Governor, to the consideration of the people. We should then see in what a glorious minority would be the "respectable and intelligent" people who acknowledge the leadership of Messrs. Collard and Co.

IMPORTANT DESPATCHES.—We understand that Despatches have been received by Mr. Douse, from the Colonial Office, in answer to that gentleman's representation of the crimes committed by Mr. John Roach Bourke at the late Belfast Election, to the prejudice of Mr. Douse; and that these Despatches not only contain a mandate enabling Mr. Douse to sit for ever for the Belfast District of Queen's County, but likewise to appoint any Nobleman or Gentleman, provided it be not the Earl of Selkirk or the Hon. W. W. Irving—whom he may think a fit person to supersede Sir H. V. Huntley in the Government of this Island.

A FINISHED STATESMAN.—The Hon. Edward Palmer, who proceeds to England respecting the Lieutenant Governor, with Mr. Pope, last year made a tour in Canada, &c., and availed himself of the opportunities which offered of making himself acquainted with all the secrets of Colonial policy. It is expected that after the interview that his Mission may afford him with the Imperial Ministers, he will return to this country a finished statesman.