

## THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1848.

It would not be difficult to show, even by a reference to particular facts and instances, that the dominant Faction in this Island, has succeeded in controlling the administration of the Government to the furtherance of their own selfish views. This is no rash or unadvised assertion: it is a truth that has indelibly impressed itself upon our minds during the entire period of our residence in this Colony: it is a truth which every man of knowledge and experience could verify—were every such man honest enough to speak exactly as he thinks—by instances numerous as they are decisive, coming within the scope of his own knowledge. We all know that the persons who compose the Faction to whom we allude, have played every part in the drama of public life in Prince Edward Island, from the loud and courageous Escheator to the falsely, meek and hypocritically self-sacrificing Proprietor—from the thorough-faced Radical to the would-be aristocratic Tory, as their own personal interest, or the probability of getting possession for themselves of this, that, and the other property, pointed out and assigned. To be the holders and dispensers of all patronage has been the chief aim of their political lives; and no principle, however sacred—however advantageous to the public weal—could be long entertained in opposition to this aim. Nor is this greedy, grasping disposition less characteristic of the smaller fry—the Overseers of Roads, the country Justices—the Sheriffs and their Deputies—the unfledged Captains of Militia, who, though they would sicken with the smell of gunpowder, or grow faint before the gleam of hostile steel, are permitted to sport a sword and a pair of epaulettes one day out of the three hundred and sixty-five, so that the uninitiated vulgar might duly note their gentility, and pay them homage. Shakspeare tells us, “some men are born great—others have greatness thrust upon them.” If Nature has been unkind to our rulers or great men, Fortune has not, indeed, deserted them in their hour of need. It must be recorded to their praise, that they have not only submissively borne the burthen of the State—wielded and arranged the entire machinery of Government; but have constantly prayed that every new official employment and honour might be “thrust upon them,” which the progress of our institutions and the advancement of society might seem to require.

We did, indeed, expect and anticipate, that—our late Lieutenant Governor having paved the way for a change—the assumption of the Government by his successor would have been distinguished by a commencement of the realization of an improved and reformed state of things. It may be that we are premature, in expressing or indicating any disappointment; and we certainly are unauthorized by any very important facts in drawing a conclusion decisive of our opinion as to the fate of those hopes by which the whole Island has been swayed; and which no one here seeks to defeat but parties similar to those who have elsewhere vainly endeavoured to check the tide of popular opinion, and to oppose every tendency to change; because they have a direct interest in maintaining a system which secures to them handsome incomes from the Public Purse, and leaves them accountable to no power or authority for the faithful performance of their official duties. We cannot—nor have we any right to conclude—that His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell is an enemy to the reformed System which has been so happily established in the other North American Colonies; but, having just taken it for granted that—appointed to his high office by a Liberal Ministry, and having been always a Whig, and long known to be a member of the Reform Club—he can be no other than a friend to reform,—we must still raise our voice, lest he should be deceived by those who surround him, into the belief that the inhabitants of this Colony are more indifferent to the privileges of British subjects than those of the neighbouring Provinces,—or by the more insidious, unjust, and wicked aspersion which is daily made, “that this Island is not fit for Responsible Government!” We are aware that the personal wrangling which has too much characterized the debates in the House of Assembly, has been given as an argument in support of this assertion. It is to be lamented that this handle has been afforded to some few designing men, who know well how to turn to their own purposes every little circumstance or artifice which their experience

may supply or their ingenuity devise; but startling as some of the exhibitions of personal ill-feeling has been, our House of Assembly does not stand alone in that particular: for if we search the annals of the Canadian Legislature, instances of this nature will be found more numerous and flagrant than the reports of our Assembly can supply. But were it otherwise, would not a reformed and a better system produce improvement even in this respect? Yet, those who never sleep in their vocation, and whose opportunities are frequent, while those of their adversaries are “few and far between”—the enemies of Responsible Government and the freeholders of office—do not scruple to pourtray all their fellow-subjects as an ignorant, ill-informed, ill-conditioned people, to whom the control of their own affairs, which the Constitution designed for them, cannot with safety be entrusted. Was ever such an insult offered to a British Public? It would be invidious—for in advocating a system we desire to avoid personalities—if we were to exhibit a list of gentlemen's names, even from those who are at present before the public, in every way as well calculated for the discharge of the duty of administering the Government of the country as are the doers of the existing worn-out system. They could not suffer by comparison with the present men; and they would be (which these are not) under the control of public opinion—unshackled by previous acts—open to coalesce with all loyal subjects—-independent and uninfluenced. The little petty habits of office—too often a veil to stupidity and servility, and used to promote covert design—could soon be acquired by the meanest capacity; and we verily believe, independently of all political character, efficiency in the discharge of official duty would be very extensively increased by a change, for at present it stands upon no remarkable eminence.

But we will just suppose, (though we well know that an Election would transfer the power into other hands), that the Government did not change, but only the system. Why then the holders of office would nevertheless be answerable to the people for the just and impartial performance of their duties; and in this we would willingly acquiesce.

When those people to whom we allude say, “this Island is not fit for Responsible Government,” is it not plain that they are condemning themselves? But the truth is, the long exclusive possession of office, authority and influence has been two valuable a freehold to allow of the most remote chance of its forfeiture. Such a thing as Responsible Government must not, therefore, be named. No!—sooner than that, we must stand out amongst our neighbours an object of ridicule and just contempt—to be pointed at as the only people on the North American Continent who are unworthy to be trusted with the management of their own affairs. This, indeed, would not have happened had there been no corruption practised in the House of Assembly—no betrayal of constituencies by mean and servile representatives—had there, in a word, remained a majority in both as in one Branch of the Legislature, prepared at all times to give life and energy to the reform movement. There is now but one remedy—that is, a General Election. How this remedy may be achieved, we shall shortly take occasion to inform the public.

As an instance of the exclusive power which is generated by the retention for a series of years of office in the same hands, we would point out, that amongst the Members of the Bar there is but one, and he an important one, who is not a strenuous advocate of the old irresponsible system. Now the reason of this is, that there is but one channel of promotion—namely, the favour of the Official Freeholders. Lawyers are not less alive to their own interests than other people; and this is the reason of there being but one reformer amongst them—a fact which distinctly points out how entirely the influences of the British Constitution are placed in abeyance as things now are. Yes, in politics, at least, our Lawyers are all of one mind, and not scrupulous in persecuting the only one who differs from them. No wonder, there is but one road to promotion, of which the permanent officials keep the gate.

**THE WEATHER.**—The weather for the last week has been such as to encourage the farmer in the hope that he may have an abundant harvest. There has fallen a good deal of warm rain, which has been followed by sunshine. We trust that the cold weather has all passed away for this season.

## THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Notwithstanding the pains taken by some parties to cry down the Board of Health appointed last year by Sir H. V. Huntley, we are glad to find that His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell and his Executive appreciate its past services, and under the new Act, have re-appointed all the gentlemen who composed the late Board. We believe the present Board to be a good one, and one that will give general satisfaction. The Town is at present in a healthy state, and we hope it may continue so.

## ON DIT.

“That ‘Sir Joseph’ will ‘come out’ after having Doused the present Agent for Lord Selkirk's estate.” We thought that Joseph had some object in view in going to England.

A melancholy accident occurred on Saturday afternoon, the 20th instant, at Glenfinlas Mills, Lot 42. While Alexander M'Kenzie, a young man about 23 years of age, who had for a few years past been the principal person in charge of the said Mills, for Mr. Dixon, the proprietor, was in the act of putting a little pitch to one of the pulleys, his foot slipped, and while off his guard, in the act of falling, took hold of the belt then in motion, and consequently was dragged towards the machinery, until his arm came in contact with two of the wheels, and was dreadfully shattered and mangled, his body at the same time sustained other injuries, which terminated his existence, after severe suffering, on the Monday following.

## News by last evening's English Mail.

The Packet arrived last evening from Pictou, bringing the 4th May mail, which was brought by the *Acadia* to Halifax in 11 days. We have dates to the 27th May. Below will be found the most interesting items of News.

[From Willmer and Smith's European Times, May 27.]

## ENGLAND.

Commercial affairs are steady, for Indian Corn and Flour prices have an upward tendency. The accounts from the Manufacturing districts are not on the whole of an encouraging character, and until the settlement of political affairs on the continent an improvement is not expected. Money is plentiful 3 to 3½ per cent for the best commercial bills. The Crops present generally a most encouraging appearance.

## IRELAND.

## MORE GOVERNMENT ARRESTS AND CROWN PROSECUTIONS.

The Government seemed determined to crush the repeal agitation effectually. Some more of the leaders of the Confederates are to be prosecuted. I have just learned that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Mr. Duffy, of the *Nation*, and that informations charging Mr. T. D. Reilly, with having committed felony under the new act, were sworn yesterday. Rumour also states that Mr. Thomas D. M'Gee will also be proceeded against, we presume for the part he took in the Meeting on Sunday last. Up to the time I write, none of the arrests alluded to have been made. Mr. Devin Reilly, who had been arrested on another charge, viz., for a breach of the Training and Drilling Act, was brought up yesterday before the police magistrates, at the head police office, College street, and after the case was heard, and informations for his committal made out, he was admitted to bail, himself in 100*l.* and two sureties in 50*l.* each, to appear and take his trial at the next city commission, to be tried two months hence.—*Dublin Letter of Wednesday.*

Mr. Mitchell addresses the following epistle to the Protestant farmers of Ulster, in the *United Irishman* of Saturday:—“For me, I abide my fate joyfully, for I know that whatever betide me my work is nearly done. Yes; Moral Force, and ‘Patience and Perseverence,’ are scattered to the wild winds of heaven. The music my countrymen now love best to hear, is the rattle of arms and the ring of the rifle. As I sit here in my lonely cell, I hear, just dying away, the measured tramp of 10,000 men—my gallant confederates, unarmed and silent, but with hearts like bended bow, waiting till the time comes. They have marched past my prison windows to let me know there are 10,000 fighting men in Dublin—felons in heart and soul. I thank God for it. The game is a-foot at last. The liberty of Ireland will come sooner or later, by peaceful negotiation or bloody conflict, but it is sure; and wherever between the poles I may chance to be, I will hear the crash of the downfall of the thrice accursed ‘British Empire.’

JOHN MITCHELL.

On Tuesday morning a proclamation from the Lord Lieutenant and Council was received in this city, commanding all persons not duly licensed or privileged to surrender their fire-arms, or other arms or ammunition to the police authorities; and those in whose possession they shall be found on and after Saturday next, the 30th inst., are liable to imprisonment for two years, with hard