

least, impaired the harmony of the meeting; and, particularly, as they who especially noted the unauthorised declaration of Mr. Stark, knew very well it would not be allowed to go into effect. With respect to the Bible Question, as it is called, in general, I am proud to say, that, on its being left to the good sense, good feeling, and moderation of the people, to decide it for themselves, no misunderstanding or disagreement arose concerning it, except in one solitary instance, with respect to a school on Lot 48. Now, as to the Normal School the Board of Education is empowered to make, by laws, from time to time, as they may see fit, for the altering the course of instruction in our public schools, as respects the books which are to be used therein; but such by-laws cannot take effect unless they shall have been sanctioned by the Government; the by-law, therefore, which the Board of Education passed, to authorize the use of the Bible, as a class book in that institution, having been disallowed by the Government, because they were of opinion that if allowed to go into operation, it would be an interference with the rights of conscience, on a regard for which our present system of public education is based; and also because, as we all know, its allowance, by the Government, would have made it as much the law of the land, as if it had been distinctly enacted by a separate clause, in the Education Act; and it was rescinded accordingly. But another arrangement respecting the reading of the Bible in that school, being in no wise objectionable, was freely approved of, which was that a Bible lesson should be given, daily, to all pupils whose parents might desire it, either before the commencement, or after the closing of the business of secular education; and the master said he had, no objection to read a chapter of the Bible daily, in accordance with such arrangements, to those amongst his pupils, to whom their parents wished he should do so; and this mode, I think, is a far more effectual way of making children acquainted with the Scriptures, than causing them, in their very imperfect manner, to read portions of it, verse by verse each, in turn. Now, if this be done every day, for the benefit of the scholars whose parents desire it, about ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, before the opening of the school, for the general business of tuition; so far from there being involved, in such a regulation, either annoyance or disappointment to any, I do not see how it can fail to give general satisfaction. It will, certainly, be much better than detaining a Bible class, twice a week, for half an hour, after the rest of the scholars are dismissed. But, should we agree to force, by law, the reading of the Bible, in the Normal School, at any time during the regular hours of tuition, we would, by so doing, greatly narrow the sphere of its utility; and, in fact, reduce it, from a public educational institution, conducted in accordance with the enlightened policy and diffuse liberality of the age, to the standard of a mere exclusive sectarian or denominational seminary. The liberty enjoyed, in our country District Schools, with respect to the use of the Bible, gives general satisfaction; then, why should not a similar measure of freedom, with respect to the use of the Sacred Volume in the Normal School give equal satisfaction to all who are immediately interested in the regulations, discipline, or management of it? No good reasons, I feel certain, can be assigned why such an arrangement for the daily reading of the Bible therein, as that of which I have just spoken, should not be readily acquiesced in by all parties. And, as for the Central Academy, which has now been in operation for thirty years, and which, throughout that period, has been extensively useful in imparting sound, useful, and scientific learning, amongst all classes and denominations of professing Christians in the Island, the introduction of the Bible, as a class book, or text, into it, is expressly forbidden, by the very law which called it into existence; and which, through so many changes of individual composition and opinions, in the Legislature, has sustained it to the present time. The clause of the Academy Act, to which I allude is this: "And be it further enacted, that no religious test shall be used in the said Academy, in order that the classes in the same may be free and open to all." Now, if we were to declare, by law, that the Bible, no matter which version, the Protestant or the Catholic, should be read daily in the Academy; should we not, thereby, be entirely setting aside a fundamental law of the institution, and actually breaking faith with the people? Most undoubtedly we should; for, by doing so, we would virtually enact, that there shall be classes in the Academy which shall not be free and open to all. And, were we merely to repeal that clause of the Act which prohibits the use of any religious test in the Academy, we would, in my opinion, commit quite as serious an error, as if we were positively to enact that the Bible shall be a class book, in the institution; for then, the question, whether it shall, or shall not be so, would be regarded as left undetermined by the Legislature, and its decision referred to the Trustees or Governors of the Institution, in that respect unfettered, might, at one time be in favor of the Bible's being made a class book, therein, and, at another be exercised to exclude it; and thus, the public mind a state of uncertainty concerning it, would be liable to be agitated concerning it, almost at the will of any man, possessed even of only the most common influence, in the community. I find, on reference to the Journal of the House, for 1845, when this question was, as now, brought before the Legislature by a number of petitions, seventeen I believe, praying that the Bible might be introduced into the Academy, some honorable members who then thought, as their votes testify, that it would be a serious infringement of the rights of conscience, on the part of the Legislature, either to authorize the introduction of the Bible, as a class book, in the Central Academy, or simply to repeal as much of the Academy Act as prohibits the use of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment therein, by children whose parents or guardians shall not object to the same; are now, with respect to the same question, of an opinion quite the contrary; and maintain that the exclusion of the Protestant version of the Holy Scriptures, as a Class Book, from the Academy, is a grievance of which the Protestant portion of the community have much cause to complain, and the redress of which ought to be forthwith granted by the Legislature. With reference to this question, I find it stated, in the Journal of the House for 1845, that the House went into Committee on the consideration of the several petitions, praying that the Bible may be introduced into the Central Academy, and all other schools throughout the Island, receiving grants of public money; Mr. Aitken in the Chair; and that on the House's being resumed, Mr. Aitken reported that the Committee had come to a Resolution. This resolution, I find is preceded by a long preamble, which, after quoting the words of the several petitions, states that as the committee, "deprecates any plan of Education which does not recognize free liberty of conscience, it consequently approves of that system of national instruction established by Law, now in progress in the Central Academy—it being based on a due respect for the rights of conscience—which leaves the Institution open to all; and whereas the introduction of the Douay Bible, as a Class Book, into the Central Academy, would give offence to one portion of the community, whilst the introduction of a different version thereof would be condemned by another; so nothing can be more injudicious than to make the reading of the Bible a necessary and indispensable condition of receiving the advantages of secular education; nothing more unjust, than to impose a tax upon a large portion of the people for supplying the means of general instruction, and yet, by compulsory regulations as to the use of the Holy Scriptures, to exclude them from a participation in its benefits, unless they thought fit to accept it on terms of which they conscientiously disapprove." Then follows the Resolution.—"Resolved that this Committee deem it inexpedient to adopt any compulsory measures for the introduction of the Bible, as a Class Book, into the Central Academy, or the other schools throughout the Island receiving grants of public money." I, being a member of the House, and present at the time, not thinking all the preamble necessary, moved that all but the simple Resolution should be struck out; and my motion was carried by a majority of one. Then Mr. Maclean moved that the word "compulsory" be struck

out of the Resolution; but he stood alone; and that Resolution of the House which was then finally agreed to, was the general rule, with respect, not only to the Central Academy, but all other public schools throughout the Island; and was most cheerfully and harmoniously acquiesced in by all parties, until last year; when many out of doors having been induced to believe that the working of so important a rule was a grievance to them, petitioned the Legislature, as they have now again done, for its redress; and some hon. members of this House repudiated their votes of 1845, concerning the question; as I suppose they will now do again, whether because they are become better Christians than they then were, or for some other cause, I will not undertake to determine. Whatever it may be, however, which has occasioned so direct a change of sentiment in the minds of some honorable members, on this subject; of one thing I feel quite certain, and that is, that the grounds which induced them to declare, in 1845, that nothing could be more injudicious or more unjust than to adopt any compulsory measures for the introduction of the Bible, as a Class Book, into the Central Academy, are precisely the same as they then were. It was then agreed—most justly agreed—by them, as well as myself, that as the people generally were taxed for the support of the Academy, it ought to be open to all, and that secular instruction therein should not practically, be withheld from some, unless they would consent to receive it at the expense of conscience. I most certainly consider it to be the duty of every Christian parent to instruct his children to be duly instructed, in the principles of the Word of God; and, were it practicable, without a violation of the rights of conscience of any, to have the Holy Scriptures read in the Central Academy, I would be as earnest in the desire that a regulation to that end should be carried into operation, as the Hon. member for Princetown (Hon. T. H. Haviland) who has just submitted a resolution to pledge the House that it shall be so, or, perhaps, as any of those who, from genuine purity of motive, have subscribed any of the petitions now before us which pray for it; but, so long as no law exists to prevent the reading of the Bible in the Normal School, or any of our public schools, in Town, or country, by scholars whose parents shall desire that they shall read it therein; and so long as it is clear that arrangements, which cannot reasonably be objected to by any, may easily be made to that end; I shall sustain, with respect to the Bible, that system of National instruction which is, at present, and has, for the last thirty years, been happily established in this Island; and to the wisdom and propriety of which our Judges, our Crown Law Officers, and our Legislature have, hitherto, borne testimony; both as regards the share which some of them had in framing the original Academy Act with the test-prohibiting clause; and, afterwards, in approving of it, as Trustees of the Academy, and in confirming it as Legislators.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MAY 17, 1858.

PROGRESS OF ELECTIONEERING MOVEMENTS.

PRINCE COUNTY.

FIRST DISTRICT.

We have received a letter from a friend at Kildare, Lot 3, in which we are informed that a public meeting was held at Tignish on the 10th instant, whereat the Hon. Mr. Warburton was unanimously chosen as a candidate to represent the First District of Prince County. The Hon. Mr. Brennan, of Charlottetown, was also chosen, with like unanimity, as a candidate to represent the same District in conjunction with Mr. Warburton, provided he pledged himself to support the present Government—the meeting appearing to have been assured that his political principles exactly agreed with Mr. Warburton's. We do not know whether Mr. Brennan authorised his name to be used in the manner described, and if so, whether he led the people of Tignish to believe that he has changed his politics. We know, however, that he was a member of the Tory Government in 1854, and has been supposed to fraternise with the Tory party before that time and since. We should heartily rejoice if we could believe that a gentleman who is so highly respected, and by his talents and long commercial standing exercises so large an influence in the community generally—has at length perceived the justice and necessity of adopting the enlightened and progressive principles of the Liberal party; but before we can indulge such an encouraging belief, we would require a public declaration from the gentleman himself, to justify the expectations formed of his political views by the people of Tignish. There is no man who would be more readily returned on the Liberal interest as a colleague for Mr. Warburton, if he espoused the political principles of that gentleman, than the Hon. Daniel Brennan; but if he has not done this, nor authorised the use of his name at the Tignish meeting, as a Liberal, in the sense in which it is generally understood—then the people of Tignish have done a very foolish thing in putting him in nomination.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Robert Gordon, Esq., is, we believe, the only Liberal candidate in the field for this District, and no doubt is entertained of his return. The Tory candidates are, we understand, a son of Mr. James Yeo and Mr. David Ramsay.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Messrs. S. F. Perry and J. A. McDonald are the Liberal candidates spoken of for this District. The District is most decidedly Liberal to the back bone, and Mr. Perry's long and consistent services in the cause of Liberalism will secure him an easy return. Mr. McDonald seems to be a favorite with both parties, and besides securing all the Liberal votes, will poll very many Conservative ones. We see no reason to doubt his return.

The Tory candidates for this District are Messrs. James Yeo and Allan Fraser. We hope the former will find, on election day, that he has made "a bad job whatever" in deserting an old and faithful district for a new one; and as for Fraser, alias the "Buck Rat," as Mr. Heath Haviland used to style him, if he does not get a tremendous worrying on that interesting occasion, we shall be much mistaken.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

There are four candidates named for this District—two on each side: The Hon. Mr. Lord and Mr. Muirhead on the Liberal interest; Mr. James C. Pope and Mr. Howatt, from Tryon, on the Tory side. The return of Mr. Lord, as one of the new members, is regarded as certain. It is believed that he will head the poll; and that Mr. Muirhead's chances of election are very nearly as encouraging. His most formidable opponent will be Mr. Pope. Mr. Howatt will be nowhere.

PRINCETOWN ROYALTY AND LOT EIGHTEEN.

We congratulate the constituency of this place on the change that is certain to occur in its representation. They will hence-

forth be emancipated from the rule of Toryism. The only candidates for its representation, at present named, are Messrs. George Sinclair and John Ramsay—two young, talented, and highly respected residents, and staunch members of the Liberal party. The Hon. Mr. Montgomery appeared at a public meeting held lately in the Royalty, but perceiving that the new constituency were determined on returning two Liberals, wisely refused to have his name put in nomination. The Tories could not bring a better man into the field than Mr. Montgomery. He is not willing to encounter a defeat, and he retires with all his honours. Messrs. Sinclair and Ramsay will be unquestionably the new members.—The *Islander* of Friday last whines dolorously over this change in Princetown Royalty, and affects to "trust" that two Tories will again be returned for that place. He may "call spirits from the vasty deep, but will they come?" and he may ask Princetown Royalty and Lot 18 to return two Tories, but in tones of thunder they will answer—NO!

KING'S COUNTY.

The people of this County are fully determined to sustain their long established character, at the ensuing election, as the most steadfast and faithful adherents to the cause of Liberalism in this Island. Notwithstanding all the machinations and misrepresentations so freely resorted to by the Tories, and their efforts in every direction of the County, there is no doubt that the returns will give nine Liberal members for King's County, and probably the whole ten.

FIRST DISTRICT.

It will be seen from the report of a public meeting at Rollo Bay, that Messrs. Flynn and Knight have been nominated for the representation of this District. The principles of the former are well known to be identical with those of the Government, and we believe he stands as high in the estimation of the people of the District as he formerly did when he faithfully represented it. As regards Mr. Knight, he has given satisfactory proof of the faith that is in him, by his having been a staunch supporter of the late members—Mr. McIntosh particularly, as well as by his opposition to the former members, Messrs. Macgowan and McEachern, after they had betrayed the confidence of the electors. Mr. Knight was one of the first to lend the weight of his name to the requisition calling upon those parties to retire from the representation of the district: a better proof of his attachment to Liberal principles could not be desired. We are not aware whether it is the intention of the late members to contest the district at the ensuing election. The only candidate spoken of on the Tory side is Mr. McEachern: we are quite sure the district will dispense with his services, and spare him the necessity of developing his fighting propensities within the halls of the Legislature in any future Session.

THE SECOND DISTRICT.

Will give the usually good account of itself on the election day. We are satisfied the return of the late members—Messrs. Dingwell and Whelan, who are both again in the field—will be easily accomplished. Their election will be contested by Mr. Cox, and Dr. Jardine it is supposed; but although the former may poll a respectable number of votes, the latter will command no support worth speaking of. We think he is too canny to throw away his three pounds for his nomination, and will not grace Georgetown with his presence on the 17th June.

THIRD DISTRICT.

The Hon. Mr. Thornton will offer for this District, and will, beyond doubt, be triumphantly returned. His colleague will be either the Attorney General or Mr. Ronald Walker. The latter has canvassed the district for several weeks past, and has received much encouragement; but it is expected that he will give way to the Attorney General, whose election will be comparatively easy. Mr. Thomas Owen and the Hon. Mr. McAulay are spoken of as candidates on the Tory side; but they must defer the indulgence of their hopes for legislative honors for a few years longer.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

The Hon. Mr. Wightman and Mr. George Harris, of Murray Harbour, will be the Liberal candidates for this district. It is understood that Mr. Philip Beer, of Montague, and Mr. Finlay McNeill, of Georgetown, will appear in opposition—it is not, however, certain that the latter will contest the election for this district. At all events, the return of Messrs. Wightman and Harris can be easily secured.

GEORGETOWN AND ROYALTY.

It will be seen from the short report of the public meeting at Georgetown on Friday last, that the Liberal cause is in a fair way of asserting its triumph in this constituency, and that Georgetown will henceforth be animated by the same free and independent spirit which governs the rest of the County. Toryism, formidable and offensive, will find no lurking place amongst the people of King's County.

We shall notice in our next No. the progress of electioneering movements in Queen's County.

The true motives which induced the combination of political parsons round the editorial throne of the *Protector* have been fully disclosed by the conduct of the Reverend Andrew Lockhead, of Georgetown, whose "zeal without understanding" has led him to make a public practical confession which ought to make him blush for the position in which he has placed himself. In the *Protector* of the 5th instant, we find a communication from the reverend gentleman on the subject of his previous attack upon the Head Master of the Central Academy, wherein the writer, with reluctance becoming one of his profession, asserts that he has no wish to "intrude himself on the notice of the public." We were disposed to let that statement go for what it might be worth, well knowing that the active interference which the reverend agitator has taken in political matters, since he erected his *Ebenezer* among us, was duly appreciated by friends and foes.

Well, some might be temporarily blinded as to the real springs of action which converted a herald of the message of peace into a political partizan, when his first appearance in the lists was that of an advocate for the Protestant version of the Bible; and verily, like Balfour of Burley, he held that volume in one hand while the other clutched the hacked and dented brand of this world's warfare. But we ask the reverend gentleman, if a desire to have the Protestant Bible read in our schools was the sole motive which actuated him in entering the political arena, what could have induced him to attend the political meeting held at Georgetown on Friday

last, and, merging the pastor in the politician, propose Mr. Heath Haviland as a candidate for the suffrages of the people? Surely he could have deputed that office to some layman entertaining opinions on the Bible question in accordance with his own. But "tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of" Georgetown, that the same Reverend Andrew Lockhead, moved by a holy zeal for the Protestant Bible, did incontinently advocate the nomination of Andrew A. McDonald, Esq., as equally fit to represent the Protestant religionists of the Town; and passed a warm eulogy on that gentleman, notwithstanding that "the gigantic schemes of Popery" in this Island formed the subject matter of his indignant denunciation at the public meeting held at Charlottetown on the subject of the Bible in the schools, and formed the staple of his letter, abusive of Mr. Kenny, which graced the sanctified columns of the *Protector*. To those of our readers who are not acquainted with the facts, it will only be necessary to inform them that Mr. McDonald is a Catholic, and voted against the compulsory introduction of the Scriptures into the Academy and Normal School, while Mr. Haviland is a Tory of the first water, and voted for their use. Perhaps the Reverend Mr. Lockhead will enlighten us upon the merits of political, professional and personal consistency, and at an early day inform us, through his chosen journal, on which of the horns of the dilemma it will please him to deposit his sacred person.

By the bye, when his hand is in, will his Reverence answer the editorial of the *Protector*, wherein it is asserted that the question to be decided at the coming Elections should be between Protestantism and Romanism? How could he reconcile his support of Mr. McDonald with that sentiment? His Reverence has let the cat out of the bag with a vengeance.

PUBLIC MEETING AT GEORGETOWN.

ONE of the largest public meetings ever held in Georgetown took place at the Court House in that Town on Friday afternoon last. It was called for the purpose of enabling the Liberal electors of the Town and Royalty to select another Liberal candidate to represent the place in conjunction with A. A. McDonald, Esq. The hour appointed for the meeting was three o'clock, and at that time the Tories collected their forces in and about the Court House, Hon. Mr. Palmer and T. Heath Haviland, Esq., occupying conspicuous places in their ranks. Nothing was done, however, until four o'clock, when the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Whelan arrived from Charlottetown. Finlay McNeill, Esq., proposed by a Liberal elector, was then called to the chair without opposition, and made a very suitable address, commenting on the important nature of the questions that would be submitted for discussion. A motion to appoint George Poole, Esq., Secretary to the meeting, was opposed by the Tories, but the majority of Liberals in favor of his appointment being decisive, the chairman declared in favor of the latter. After a little delay, the Hon. Mr. Coles addressed the meeting at considerable length, reviewing and defending the various measures of the Government, and showing the important beneficial changes that had been effected for the improvement of the country since the establishment of the present form of Government.

T. Heath Haviland, Esq., next addressed the meeting. He complained that he had not been invited to attend—said that it showed want of courtesy, and not in accordance with the spirit of British justice for any persons to call a meeting at which he supposed his political death warrant would be signed, without giving him a chance to defend himself. [The gentleman seemed to labour under the impression that he was still the member for the Town, and that the Liberal electors had no right to put forward a man who would advocate their own principles, in opposition to him.] After discoursing on the subject of his imaginary wrongs for a few moments, Mr. Haviland addressed himself to the numerous public questions so often now discussed at public meetings—viewing them from the Tory stand point of view—and stated his claims to the confidence of the people of Georgetown on account of the zeal he had always shown in promoting their local interests. His speech was patiently and respectfully listened to, and on the whole was one of the best we have heard him deliver.

The Hon. Mr. Wightman then addressed the meeting in his best style and at unusual length, in support of the policy of the Government, and alluded particularly to some of the more prominent questions before the country. He concluded by proposing Mr. George Parker as a fit and proper person to be put in nomination for the representation of the Town and Royalty. This announcement was received with loud applause from the Liberals, and with hisses and whistling from the Tories.—Mr. Parker, who addressed the meeting at a later stage of the evening, admirably rebuked the unmannerly conduct of his opponents, and gave evidence of a well cultivated mind, and a highly independent spirit.

Andrew McDonald, Esq., having been nominated as a candidate, on motion of Liberal electors, briefly returned thanks.

Mr. Coles having again spoken in reply to Mr. Haviland, and at much greater length than in his former speech, the Reverend Mr. Lockhead, Presbyterian Minister, who was in attendance at an early hour, and manifested great interest in the political discussion, came forward and proposed a resolution, to the effect that T. H. Haviland, Esq., merited the confidence of that constituency, and was entitled to their support at the ensuing election. The Rev. gentleman made a speech in which he warmly eulogised his protegee, but everybody felt—and none more keenly than those of his own congregation—that his Reverence was out of his proper sphere, and paid small attention to his harangue. Having said his say, some person behind him suggested that Mr. McDonald's name ought to be included in the resolution, as he also enjoyed the respect and confidence of the constituency; whereupon the Rev. Mr. Lockhead again rose, and made another speech longer than the former, in which he complimented Mr. McDonald, and readily agreed to the suggestion to have his name connected with Mr. Haviland's,—said he did not approve of Mr. McDonald's principles in all things, especially in one essential matter, (meaning religion), but was anxious to avoid the unpleasantness of an election contest, and was influenced by a Christian desire to throw oil upon the troubled waters, &c. &c. &c.

Mr. Whelan then came forward and spoke for about an hour—congratulated the Rev. Mr. Lockhead on the change that had taken place in his feelings and opinions with respect to at least one Catholic; and ironically addressing himself to Mr. McDonald, congratulated that gentleman on having obtained the benefit of clergy to secure his election; and expressed his conviction that the worn out but offensive stories about "Popish ascendancy" and priestly interference at elections, would never more be heard of, since the Rev. gentleman before the meeting had left all the Catholic priests in the shade, by the boldness of his efforts as an electioneering parson and a member of the church militant. Mr. Whelan then directed the attention of the meeting to general questions in politics, confining his address principally to a review and refutation of Mr. Haviland's arguments.

Hon. Mr. Palmer was the next to speak, and occupied the time of the meeting for nearly two hours—answering some