Legislative Council Election.

Liberal-Conservative Candidate for the City:

ALEXANDER HORNE, ESQ.

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

NOVEMBER 8, 1886.

The Council Election.

We trust that during every day and every evening of this week, previous to the day of election, Liberal Conservatives will be occupied in preparing for the Council election.

To be consistent, the country must elect a majority of the Conservative candidates; and this City must elect Mr. Horne.

The Hon. Neil McLeod and Mr. Patrick Blake were both elected by the City to support the Administration of the day; and common prudence as well as consistency demands that Mr. Thomas Walker Dodd shall *not* now be elected to oppose and render ineffectual the efforts of the City's representatives in the Lower House.

Furthermore, all who are in favor of reducing the Legislature and having one chamber instead of two, will now rally to the support of the Government and Mr. Horne. The folly of having two Legislative chambers and forty-three legislators for Prince Edward Island is sufficiently apparent.

Let us now do what we can to reduce the machinery and the cost of legislation. Let it be known what Charlottetown thinks about the matter—by electing Mr. Horne.

Organization is all that is needed in order that the Liberal-Conservative Party may again score a decisive victory.

Let not a moment be lost in perfecting all the necessary arrangements for the struggle of Thursday next.

Discreditable Journalism.

On Thursday evening last, that portion of the public which reads the *Patriot* heard, for the first time, about the charge that the Hon. Donald Ferguson was guilty of attempting to bribe Mr. Thomas Annear to vote for the abolition of the Legislative Council.

Promptly, on Friday, over his own signature, Mr. Ferguson emphatically denied the charge.

Mr. Ferguson is a gentleman against whom no dishonorable act has ever been proven; Mr. Annear is the gentleman who, in 1878, solemnly promised the taxpayers of the Second District of King's that if elected he would vote for the abolition of the Legislative Council, and who, when elected, repeatedly declined to do so.

Yet the *Patriot* has no hesitation in believing Mr. Annear, and disbelieving Mr. Ferguson; and though no investigation has been held, though no proof whatever has been advanced concerning Mr. Annear's charge, the *Patriot* of Saturday evening last asks the electors to show by their votes on Thursday next that they believe Mr. Ferguson to be guilty of a heinous crime. In other words, it asks the electors to condemn Mr. Ferguson and the entire Government, of which he is a member, without trial, and in the face of an emphatic plea of "not guilty."

This appeal of the *Patriot* may possibly have some effect upon hot-headed, short-sighted, *un*fair-minded electors; but upon the mass of the electors, upon the temperate and thoughtful, the Christian and honest, it can have no other effect than to produce a feeling of disgust at the *Patriot*.

In a Christian community, every man ought to be regarded as innocent until he is proved guilty; and under British laws and customs, he is at all events entitled to a fair trial before he is condemned. The premature attempt of the *Patriot* to obtain the condemnation of Mr. Ferguson and the Government upon a charge of bribery, is in a high degree discreditable.

Again, referring to The Examiner, the *Patriot* says: "The leading organ of the Tory Party in this Province unblushingly defends bribery." What a gross, unmitigated fabrication this is, must be apparent to every one who remembers that The Examiner expressly stated if Mr. Annear were "elected to preserve the Legislative Council, *then an attempt to bribe him to vote for its abolition would undoubtedly be very disgraceful—an act to be condemned and punished by public opinion.*"

It is apparent to everyone who thinks about it, that there is bribery and bribery. First, there is the bribery by means of which a person is induced to turn traitor to his principles, to his party, to his friend, to his word. Bribery of this description is a crime against good morals, a crime against the state, an offence to God and man; and far from treating it lightly, we would condemn any one proved to be guilty of it to condign punishment. We shall not now stop to argue the question as to whether or not the Honorable David Laird is guilty of this kind of bribery, in 1873, though, he led Sir John Macdonald to believe that he would support him in Parliament, and suffered Sir John to introduce him to the Speaker, and then a few days after declared against Sir John, and obtained his reward in the Department of the Interior. But we do now say that it is absolutely impossible that the Hon. Donald Ferguson can be guilty of it in the case of Mr. Annear; for Mr. Annear was elected—pledged—to vote for the abolition of the Legislative Council. Even if Mr. Annear's story be true—it is not true—Mr. Ferguson is not guilty of having attempted to bribe him to vote contrary to his declared principles, or to the policy of the Party to which he belonged, or to the wishes of a majority of his constituents, or to his word and honor as a man—which he had pledged as a guarantee that he would vote for the abolition of the Legislative Council. The Hon. Mr. Prowse is not, therefore, we maintain, to be severely censured if he did lightly regard the charge of Mr. Annear. Suppose that Mr. Ferguson did that which he did not,—suppose that he did approach Mr. Annear with an offer of office on condition that Mr. Annear carried out his pledge and voted for the abolition of the Legislative Council,—Mr. Ferguson's offence would not have been one on the strength of which the electors should punish the Government and all the Government's candidates. We are all more or less guilty of this kind of bribery. Parents bribe their children, teachers bribe their scholars, merchants bribe their customers, and (if giving offers to members of their own party be bribery) governments bribe their supporters. Gifts, or prizes, or favors, or places—bribes—are continually being offered and bestowed in order to influence conduct. So far from unblushingly defending bribery, we have never even said that we approved of this venial kind of bribery. In fact, we believe that it is nowadays, in school and out of school, carried a great deal too far. But we do say that it is not inexcusable, that it is not a great crime; and we do say that in attempting to mislead its readers with the belief that The Examiner unblushingly defends bribery of the worst kind, the *Patriot* is guilty of an act discreditable to journalism.

A Step in Advance.

The following is a copy of a circular which was recently issued by the Railway Superintendent:—

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RAILWAY.

Superintendent's Office,
Charlottetown, Oct. 21, 1886.

To the Officers and men in the Railway Service:

I am instructed to say that the Honorable the Minister of Railways and Canals has resolved that decisive measures shall be adopted to impress upon the employes of the Government Railways, the necessity for *absolute sobriety*, not only when performing their respective duties, but at *all* times, to the end that those who avail themselves of the advantages of the Railway and incur its risks, may, as far as possible, secure immunity from the dangers of operating it.

The public, having a right to expect that the Railway shall be controlled and operated by men who are always sober, the Minister has determined *not to retain in the service* any person whose reputation for *sobriety* is not good.

The adoption of this course has been rendered imperative, because some of the men habitually live just within the rule which requires an employe, intoxicated upon duty, to be dismissed; while others boldly violate the rule, and rely, for protection, upon the goodfellowship of their comrades, and their natural dislike to report them, so that, sometimes, it has been found quite impossible to reach the guilty.

Under these circumstances, the Minister, acting in the public interests, has decided that he will no longer permit *a doubt* to exist in a case where it is the manifest duty of *all* persons interested to take the *safe* side.

Railway men must, therefore, in the future, so conduct themselves as to establish a *character* for sobriety.

Railway employes will be expected to report to their immediate superiors those *in any branch of the service* who get drunk, or may be known to drink intoxicants in taverns, saloons or other such places; and also those whose general appearance and conduct indicate that they are addicted to the "liquor habit."

Officers, Foremen and persons in authority will be held strictly responsible for the conduct of their subordinates, and be required to report, from time to time, as to the conduct of each of them in this particular. They must forward promptly reports made to them.

When any such report implicates an employe of another department, it will be forwarded to the head of such department for his observations before final action is taken thereon.

I commend this whole subject to your favorable consideration, and solicit your active co-operation in this important matter.

Yours faithfully,
James Coleman,
Superintendent.

It thus appears that the Minister of Railways and Canals has determined to retain in the Government service only those persons whose reputation for sobriety is good. It is therefore clear that each Railway man must establish *for himself a character for sobriety*, or quit the service.

The action of the Minister in this matter must be approved by all reasonable persons.

It is to be hoped that the course adopted to protect the public interest may prove to be a blessing to the Railway man himself, as it certainly will if he can be induced to abandon the *liquor habit*.

If the Railway *official* seconds the efforts of the Minister, much good will result.

If he does *not*, then he should "get out."

The public will have no sympathy fo any person in the Railway service who may conspire to defeat the commendable action of the Minister of Railways in this very important matter.

More Electricity in Charlottetown.—W. Brown has purchased a Dynamo-Electric Machine, one of the latest improved New York style. This machine is capable of depositing two lbs. of silver per day. Mr. Brown is now prepared to do Gold and Silver Plating second to none in the world, such as knives, forks, spoons, tea setts, watches, jewelry of all kinds; also carriage work, handles, dashers, etc., at the Athenæum, corner of Prince and Grafton Streets.
oct30—tf

High License Weighed in the Balances and—

HERRICK JOHNSON, D. D., IN THE "INDEPENDENT."

Over against High License, with this quintette of claims (four of which we find stamped by the facts as either doubtful or spurious,) we are content simply to put two balancing considerations, and upon these to challenge intelligent and Christian judgment.

The first is, that High License *does not grapple in any way whatever* with the confessed and monstrous evil. Let us have distinctly in mind just what the evil is. The friends of High License shall give us the terrible portraiture. They tell us that the liquor traffic is to-day "the enemy of society," "the ally of anarchy," "a menace to the public welfare"; that "the police of every city in our land give a united testimony to this prolific source of social disorder and violence"; and that "*something* must be done for the safety of the country as against this frightful and growing curse."

This is the enormous public, social and political evil, for which High License is proposed as the best attainable corrective and antidote. And the first consideration we put in the scales of the balance against High License is, that it does not deal with this evil, does not smite a single hideous phase of it, does not heal even one of its sore hurts. It neither diminishes drinking nor lessens materially the saloons, nor changes one iota their vile character. The traffic is as prolific in crime and lust and orphanage, and defiance of law, and damage to property, and waste of resources, as ever. There the sore is, and it festers on, and gets no check from this boasted specific. There the curse is, and it continues, just as before, to lay its burdens on home, property, wedlock, offspring, society and state.

But High License "*helps pay taxes!*" Yes, it swells municipal and state income. It rolls up millions of revenue. It does not pay a tithe of what the traffic costs. No license fee, piled to any height, can compensate for the ravages of the liquor business. But High License does help city and state to pay some of the expenses. Mark, however, the vicious circle born of this High License logic. Here is the miserable go-round. "The liquor traffic is prolific of vice, lust, violences, crimes and criminals. These necessitate increased police, prosecutions, imprisoments. Police, prosecutions, and imprisonments cost money. High License makes the liquor traffic pay the money." Intelligent voters, men of conscience and conviction, look at this vicious cirle. Begin at any point in the circuit of its succession, and you come round to the same point again. That High License link just completes the endless chain. But nothing is changed by it. Nothing is remedied. Vice and crime are made their own successors. The traffic continues unabated its work of ruin. And a great public curse is allowed to perpetuate itself on the one condition that it *helps pay expenses!* To what shall we liken this? To a community consenting to perpetual smallpox on condition of selling vaccine matter enough to pay the physicians. To a government letting its criminal classes ply their trade in crime, if they will pay taxes enough to meet the cost of prosecutions. Your answer, thinking men—is this enlightened Christian legislation? Is it not rather the very imbecility of statesmanship? Can it be possible that this confession of political impotency is the best answer of our Christian civilization to the demand that something be done for the safety of the country as against this frightful and growing curse?"

And now with the scales in our judicial hands, your candid judgment, good reader, whether the balances do not prove High License politically unsound, and a piece of legislative folly.

But there is a worse folly we charge upon High License. We arraign it for its moral as well as its political unsoundness. Here we know we take issue with a large number of good men, whose motives we would be the last to impugn, whose authority on many questions of morals we gladly recognize, who confess and deplore the evils of the liquor traffic, and many of whom would welcome its extermination. It is just because there are so many men of intelligence and conscience who give their voice and vote for License as the best attainable thing that we write this article. We want them on our side, believe they ought to be, and are joyful in the faith that many of them yet will be.

The charge we make is that the License system is a direct sanction of the evil we are seeking to restrict, and *wrong in principle*. The claim we therefore make is that advocacy of License, whether High or Low, is not justifiable at the bar of sound Christian ethics.

The reply to this is, that under the Common Law, before License was thought of, everybody could traffic in liquor without let or hindrance; that license now *restricts* the legal traffic, so that only those licensed can lawfully manufacture and sell; and that this was the distinct and only purpose in putting the License law on the statute books.

From all this we do not dissent. It is the truth. But it is not the whole truth. And therefore the conclusion drawn from it is a *non sequitur*: to wit, the conclusion that the license system is *solely restrictive*, and carries with it no sanction. Whatever the intent of the original act, the law, in its practical operation, has not only a side of restriction, but a side of sanction. It is a positive statute *authorization* of the traffic, as well as a positive statute *limitation* of the traffic. The three thousand Chicago licenses read, "License is hereby given by authority of the city of Chicago to ——— to keep a saloon, and to sell, etc., etc." Changing the word 'license', to 'tax' does not change the thing. Esau's hair does not change Jacob's voice. Putting a steeple on a theatre does not make the theatre a church. Tax is for revenue, not for punishment. We punish crimes, not a legal business. And the saloon business is legal the moment it is authorized. All the same, therefore, whether we call it License, fee, or tax, on receipt of either, the Government says: "You are hereby authorized." No quibble of words can change this simple axiomatic truth. There are restrictions, beyond a doubt. But this is sanction.

Now the thing sanctioned; the actual saloon we license, or authorize, to sell drinks over the counter by the glass, for one year, on payment of fee or tax, is a moral abomination. The High License advocates themselves say it is a "school of crime," "the enemy of society," "prolific of social disorder and violence," and, "deserving the condemnation of all good men."

Your judgment again, good reader. Have we the moral right officially, or unofficially, to authorize what we know and declare to be "the open manufacturer of crime?" Would you put your own official signature to a document saying, "by virtue of the authority vested in me by the statutes, I hereby authorize ——— to prosecute a traffic which deserves the condemnation of all good men?" Would you not sooner lose your right hand than have "given under it" the authority to do for one year the infamous work of one of these licensed grog-shops? And what is the difference between the hand that casts a ballot for the law, and the hand that signs a license under the law?

It is this fundamental moral objection to the license system that will yet command the public conscience. Get it fairly before the mind, and it makes an end of the plausible, popular fallacies, so often urged in behalf of license. They are fallacies, because they are half truths; truths of policy and not of principle. Here are some of them:

"A half loaf is better than none." But is it better if poison is in it?

"Twenty saloons are better than thirty." Are twenty murders better than thirty, if, in lessening the number by ten, the Government must issue its formal license to commit the twenty?

"We must restrict where we cannot sanction." Certainly; and therefore we favor *every restrictive feature* of the license law. But we must not wed restriction to *sanction*; and we therefore are unalterably opposed to the license feature. It is utterly bad morals to restrain many men from doing a wrong by directly authorizing a few men to do the wrong.

"Of two evils choose the least." Nay, rather, of two evils choose neither if both involve the sacrifice of principle. It can never be right to choose to do wrong. And wrong is not made right by being made alternative to another and greater wrong. And between a greater and a less wrong, neither God nor conscience allows a choice. If the two evils are moral, we must reject both, or claim the liberty of choosing between different degrees of guilt.

Rustico Notes.

Farmers are looking very cheerful, being favored with such fine weather, and thus enabling them to dispose of their surplus crops.

The fishing season is brought to a close and fishermen are beginning to count their losses, as the season was very unsuccessful. The general impression of our fishermen is that the hook and line style of capturing the blue-back sailors is out of vogue.

Messrs. Peters Brothers have fitted up a store at Commercial Cross, where they intend making a start in the mercantile pursuit.

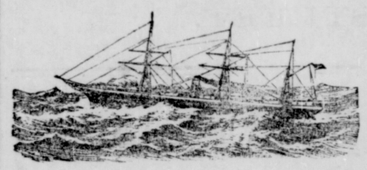
Folk in this vicinity are using precautions in the housing of their geese and ducks, as some of the young sports from the metropolis have been playing sad havoc among them. Dudes from the city should take a lesson or two on the differences between wild and tame birds before coming to the country on shooting expeditions.

Last week the inhabitants of the quiet little village of Rusticoville were thrown into great excitement, caused by the mysterious appearance of a monstrous fish grounding on the shore. The efforts made by the fish to liberate itself were desperate, causing the spray to fly for hundreds of yards. All gazed on in awe stricken terror. None dare venture near it. Finally Mr. Benjamin Houston, blacksmith, prepared arms of iron, and he in company with Mr. A. Gay, after a hard fight, succeeded in killing and capturing it. It proved to be a horse mackerel of enormous size. It has been seen by a large number of people, all of whom express feelings of surprise at this sea monster.

A bazaar was held here at Rustico Institute on the first inst., which proved to be a very successful affair, notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, and the attempts at rowdyism by some youths who frequent the beer saloons, which have unfortunately become numerous. The handsome sum of $108 was realized.—Com.

South Rustico, Nov. 5, 1886.

RED CROSS LINE.



FOR NEW YORK,

VIA HALIFAX.

S. S. "Portia," November 10,
S.S. "Miranda" about Nov. 20.

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Charlottetown to New York—

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Ch'town, Oct. 30, '86.

North Atlantic Steamship Co.

FOR CHARLOTTETOWN.

THE STEAMSHIP

'CLIFTON'

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FENTON T. NEWBERY,
Nov. 2, 1886. AGENT.

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Dress Goods,	Hosiery,	Overcoats,
Sacques,	Hats,	Mufflers,
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Gloves,	Ulster Cloths,	Shirts, &c.

Coat Robes Very Cheap.

MILLINERY.

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NEW FALL GOODS.

MANTLE DEPARTMENT.

DOLMANS,
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A Large Assortment
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BEER BROS.

Ch'town, Oct. 19, 1886.

A GOOD BARGAIN

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44 Acres of Land,

situate one-half mile from Cardigan Bridge, lately owned by Capt. Michael Sigsworth.

Nov. 5, '86—2i fri tu wky 3i

A CARD.

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