

# The Examiner.

## AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

New Series.

CHARLOTTETOWN, SEPTEMBER 11, 1850.

Vol. 1: No. 64

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### THE POST OFFICE AFFAIRS. ONE OR THE OTHER.

MR. EDITOR—

My distant locality prevented me from addressing you before this on the great scheme of Mail stoppage. I trust you will, however, let me be heard in "The Examiner."

Assuming as fact that the prime head of the British Post Office department has legitimate power vested in him to interfere with, and controul the action of, the inland mails of this colony, it is nevertheless certain that his Lordship could know very little about our local squabbles, except by some direct communication from this place; and it is therefore clear, that some official despatch was transmitted to his Lordship, embodying a pecuniary necessity, demanding the immediate stoppage of those mails; and hence his Lordship's order for their discontinuance.

The foregoing fact being established, a question presents itself, asking—who was the official parent of that vicious despatch? Was it Mr. Owen who did the evil thing, to serve party purposes and ends? To this interrogatory I answer—no. Mr. Owen was not the originator nor contriver of the noxious paper, and this opinion or conclusion is deduced from the fact of Mr. Owen having, for three months subsequent to the stoppage of the supplies by the Assembly, continued the regular transmission of those Mails, and satisfied and paid all their concomitant expenses out of the revenue they produced. Now while this shews that the receipts were equal to the expenditure, it also conveys to us Mr. Owen's disposition and wish relative to their transmission. Why, then, the querist asks, did Mr. Owen cease to make up those mails at his office, and why were the carriers sent away empty? I answer, for this cogent reason: Sir Donald Campbell was displeased at the service being performed. He, Sir Donald, was at variance with the Assembly, and he entertained the princely desire to thwart and mar the public interest, whenever and wherever he believed, by so doing, it might redound to the prejudice and disadvantage of the Representatives of the people; and believing he had found a "bit of raw" in the transmission of the inland mails, caused by the suspension of supplies, like any "blue bottle," he pounced upon it with eager haste; and bullied Mr. Owen, report says, for having performed that service. It is even said that that dignified impersonation of Majesty swore lustily on the delicate occasion; but, supposing that august personage, flaunting in royal trimmings, incapable of such classic flights, pass the cursing by for what it is worth. Now having shewn why the mails were stopped, namely, because of his Excellency's displeasure, I have to determine on who

was the originator of the Despatch. As the matter argued stands, we find the Postmaster was not only favourable to continuing the Mails, but did actually forward them until the highest power in the colony evinced his coarse displeasure against the procedure, and finally was the cause of closing up that branch of our postal service. Now, if Sir Donald had made no complaints, I believe the mails would have been still regularly carried; and Sir Donald being the great Inimical, was the evil germ, therefore, of the vicious Despatch, if not the writer or dictator of the foul instrument of a petty revenge. Thus, my countrymen, you will readily perceive the love our Governor has for us, in sacrificing our interests if he could, to supply a morbid appetite of a vindictive spirit; but, fellow countrymen, the time is not afar off when this clog upon our country's good shall be called away, or taught to administer his Government by the legitimate action of British constitutional principles, which will be entirely for our common good.

COURIER.

West Cape, August, 1850.

### The Examiner.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1850.

#### SOMETHING FOR THE "ISLANDER" TO EXPLAIN.

The editor of the *Islander* is evidently annoyed and alarmed at the declaration for Responsible Government made by the official organ in the number of yesterday week. "From the respectability and semi-official character of the Royal Gazette," says the *Islander*, "we are sure that a precise definition of what it means by the particularly vague expression, 'Responsible Government,' would be very acceptable to the public, and trust that the Gazette will see the propriety of explaining accordingly."

Notwithstanding all the mystification with which Mr. Maclean has treated the question of Responsible Government, since his reconversion to toryism, we deny that there is any thing vague in the terms. If he be really desirous of an explanation of the principles which these terms comprehend, he will readily obtain it by turning to the pages of De Lolme or to those of any other standard writer on the British Constitution. The Gazette may or may not explain what it means, but the public understand sufficiently well that there is really and truly but one kind of Responsible Government,—and that is, the administering the public affairs by and with the majority in Parliament. The majority in Parliament now being adverse to the views of the ruling Clique, Mr. Maclean cannot consent to recognise their constitutional power and authority, and labours to impose upon the community a cheat—a patchwork of republican forms—which he designate

Responsible Government. He spreads this temptingly before the eyes of the editor of the Gazette, in the hope that that pliant gentleman will give to it the benefit of his countenance and approval. If the case were reversed, and the tories had a majority in the Assembly, we should, in all likelihood, find the *Islander* the most vehement advocate for the Colonial system of Responsibility. The "dog in the manger" policy is the policy of the tories all the world over—Charlottetown not excepted: that which they cannot enjoy themselves they would fain withhold from others.

It is in the recollection of every one, that when discussion was first raised in reference to the question of Responsible Government, the objection mainly urged against its adoption was, that it savoured too much of republicanism. Having been whipped out of that absurdity, the supporters of the *Islander* now throw aside their prejudices against republican forms, and boldly declare for a system chiefly borrowed from the constitution of the neighbouring States, only because they know it is impracticable, and because it may serve as a make-shift against Responsible Government. They may as well save themselves further trouble: the day of reckoning has come, and they are sure to get their change.

It is instructive to observe, that Mr. Maclean has never missed an opportunity since he became the hired advocate of the Oligarchy, of complimenting the men who compose it, and occasionally bestowing sly praises on that inestimable system of Government which they uphold, and by which they are upheld. In the article above noticed, we find the following words:—

"Under the late Colonial system, which has not yet been superseded in this Island, every officer, from the Governor downwards, can very readily be made responsible for his deeds—much more readily than under the new."

So much for the system; now for the men. He says:—

"We certainly consider the present officers of Government vastly superior in abilities and integrity to those who seek their places."

Contrast these passages with some parts of Mr. Maclean's letters published in 1843 and 1844, and we find the most flagrant inconsistency of opinion. Writing against the *Islander*, (the paper of which he is now the editor,) on the 30th of October, 1843, Mr. Maclean observes:

"The course pursued by the faction of which he" (the *Islander*) "is an organ, has a direct tendency to alienate the affections of the people of this colony from connection with their fatherland, and consequently to accelerate the dismemberment of the British empire."

The "course pursued by the faction" being precisely the same in 1850 as it was in 1843, we are induced to ask, why has not the said faction been held "responsible" for the evil "deed" of "alienating the affections of the people from connec-

tion with the fatherland"? Where is the "integrity" of "the faction" who will persist in such a "course"? Mr. Maclean wrote falsely either in 1843, or he writes falsely now. Let him adopt either horn of the dilemma, and he proves himself unworthy of trust.

In Mr. Maclean's third letter on Annexation, published on the 20th of June, 1844, he says:

"I am profoundly sensible that the real state of this Island is systematically misrepresented to the Colonial Office by the Oligarchy."

Where, again we ask, is the "integrity" of a party who will "systematically misrepresent the real state of the Island"? Where is the "responsibility" to check and make such "misrepresentation" void?

In Mr. Maclean's eleventh letter on Annexation to Nova Scotia, published October 1, 1844, he says:—

"I shall now prove that no equal number of men could possibly govern worse than the present Executive; and that this Oligarchy—this "Council of ten"—these *Decemviri*—instead of meriting that respect which some of them so urgently and vulgarly claim, have earned and deserve nothing but the bitterest scorn and deepest execration, of an insulted, betrayed, oppressed, and ruined country. From a curse of this nature," &c.

No man knows better than Mr. Maclean that there has been no change in the policy and principles of the Executive—the "Council of ten"—the "betrayers" and "oppressors" of their country—from the time he penned the above remarkable passage down to the present moment. Messrs. Haviland, Lane, Goodman, Palmer, Hodgson, are still there. Not one of these Gentlemen has recanted his principles or shewed the slightest disposition to recant. If Mr. Maclean could "prove" that in 1844 no set of men could "govern worse," how can he now claim for them "integrity" and "respect"? If they deserved the "bitterest scorn and deepest execration" in 1844, we should like to be informed of the miraculous changes in their political conduct, that have called forth the late penegyrics of their former reviler. Mr. Maclean is old enough to form an estimate of human character,—at any rate, he claims the merit of being wonderfully sagacious; yet he has confessed, poor credulous fellow! that he has laboured under a delusion whilst he advocated Responsible Government. Is he forced to confess likewise, that he laboured under a delusion when he expressed the deadliest hatred of the "Council of ten" who opposed that measure, who "could not possibly govern worse," and whom he now regards with the most fervent love? Duncan! Duncan! thy pen has been thy ruin; hadst thou never writ—at least in '43 and '44—we should not have known thee for the fickle ass thou art! May the "Council of ten" forgive thee for all the hard names thou hast called them as sincerely as we deplore the grievous fallibility of thy judgment!