

...which they pretend to entertain. That is untrue—the thousands assembled around this platform have already declared it to be untrue. They say the confidence reposed in the dismissed officials was universal. That is also untrue; their requisition has been sent to every quarter of the Island; but have any responses been made to it which prove the universality of that sympathy which they themselves hypocritically pretend to feel for the dismissed officials? If the sentiment were universal in the Island, is it not quite reasonable to suppose that many from distant quarters of the country, as well as from every nook and corner of Queen's County, would have been here this day in evidence of it? But is it so? No; there are none here from many quarters that might be easily enumerated. All whom the Unholy however could, by heat of "politic-drum ecclesiastic," by circular allusion, by gross misrepresentations, by vile calumnies, and by sordid agents, possibly assemble in the assumed character of sympathizers with Messrs. Owen and Desbrisay, are now to be seen around that hole-and-corner platform; and, compared with what the insane projectors of the gathering had persuaded themselves it would be, from the wonderful exertions—wonderful indeed for so tardy and dull-paced a set as they are—which they have made to effect the demonstration, a most sorry and beggarly exhibition truly of the extent of their power, no less than of the sympathy, does it afford! [Hear! Hear! Hear!] Well, the first question which I shall consider, is, have the Government a right to dismiss from their appointments any of our public officials holding office under them, when it shall seem to them right and proper to do so? I answer, such right and power are and ought to be fully and unquestionably theirs; and for this one simple reason, that if the case were otherwise, there would be no security whatever for the obedience on the part of subordinates, but every such officer might set himself up, in his own department, as Mr. Owen did, as independent of all higher authority in the Colony than his own. [Hear! Hear!] And with respect to the late dismissals, I maintain that, although the conduct of both Mr. Owen and Mr. Desbrisay, both in and as viewed in connection with their office, had been entirely faultless, the Government had a right to remove them at their pleasure if they thought proper to do so. Such power they possess and ought to possess; and none but they who are, in a great measure, if not wholly, ignorant of the arbitrary element which conservatively enters into the constitution of our limited monarchy, will for one moment dispute it. The allowing by any Government, at any time, this absolute power, with which they are constitutionally invested, to remain inactive with respect to subordinates officials who are well known to be their political opponents, is a very questionable policy; it may indeed sometimes, perhaps, prove to have been not only a generous, but a wise forbearance; although, in the common course of events, it generally appears to have been nothing but a faint-hearted and dangerous line of policy. But, in any case of direct and daring insubordination, such as that of the late Postmaster General, Mr. Owen, the Government which should fail promptly to exercise that power by the displacing of the refractory official, would not only disgrace themselves by their moral pusillanimity, but, in fact, be guilty of an act of suicidal fatality. With respect, therefore, to the dismissals which have lately been made by the Government, while the Government clearly stand exonerated from high-handed or tyrannical treatment of those who have suffered for their insubordination in office, it is quite clear that, if the iron rod had been brought into play, as, in my opinion, it ought to have been four years ago, with respect to all officials who were then well known to be directly opposed to the Government, the puny leaders of the Charlottetown Political Alliance would not now have been able to make even the ineffective demonstration of a sordid indignation which they have made this day. The fault committed by the Government with respect to those dismissals is not their having made them now, but their having failed to make them four years ago. [Hear! Hear! Hear!] When the Hall and Palmer administration had some five or six months of feverish and fitful existence, their weakness most certainly lay in any thing rather than in their forbearance or generosity. Quickly indeed did they sweep out office all who were either known or suspected to be opposed to themselves and the general policy by which they were governed. In attention to their despotic action in that respect, and in condemnation of the erring, although magnanimous, behaviour of the Liberals when in power, with respect to many of their political adversaries whom they found in office, it was on the occasion of a certain public meeting of the Liberal party held, more than four years ago, in the Temperance Hall, I declared that if we came into office we should, in imitation of the Tory practice, make them in their turn feel the weight and the force of the iron rod. By this declaration—against which the Tory press has again and again invoked in vain the indignation of a sensible and thinking people—I merely meant that when a Liberal Government should again, through your choice, be established it would be a duty which they would owe at once to you and to themselves to dismiss from his appointment every individual opposed to them, whom they should find in office, and who, from being in opposition to them, it would be quite clear was opposed to your wishes, and therefore unworthy to hold a public appointment. [Hear! Hear! Hear!] This is the doctrine—the popular doctrine—which I then announced as being that by which a Government which was the choice of the people ought to be guided; and I now fearlessly declare, that Self-Government—the Government of the People—cannot exist unless this doctrine be systematically carried into effect. [Much cheering.]

In 1851, when the Imperial Government transferred to us, on certain conditions, the full control of all our local affairs and interests, the Post Office and all matters relating to it were placed under the authority of our local government, and a single special Act was then framed and passed, and was one entitled "An Act to provide for the transfer of the management of the Island Posts within Prince Edward Island; the first enacting clause of which is, "And be it enacted, that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may establish, alter, discontinue, or extend any Post or Post communication, a Post Office within this Island, and may appoint, suspend, or remove, or displace a Postmaster General, and all other Postmasters, Officers, Deputies, Servants, and Agents connected therewith." Here then, gentlemen, the Government have full and absolute power to dismiss, at their will and pleasure, a Postmaster General, as well as all other Postmasters; and, therefore, in the first place, with respect to the dismissal of Mr. Owen from the office of Postmaster General, it is quite clear that the Government acted according to law. And in the second place, it is equally clear that they acted according to the necessity of the case; for how could they exercise that control over the management of the Post Office with which they are invested by this Act, if they tolerated the retention in the Office by the Postmaster General, of a Clerk whom they had displaced from it? Clearly then was the dismissal of Mr. Owen from the office of Postmaster General not only according to law, but according to the necessity of the case. Surely no private individual having servants in his employ would tolerate such insubordination or disobedience on the part of any of them as might mar his prospects in life, and the obedience and subordination which, in private life, are justly required by masters from their servants, are precisely such as are and must be required by Governments from all inferior officials, for the securing the due and successful management of public affairs. Much, by way of cloaking the offences against the Government of Messrs. Owen and Desbrisay, has been said of their efficiency in the offices lately held by them. But I wonder whether if the Tories were now to be returned to power they would allow any of the individuals of the Liberal party now in office, however faithful and efficient therein, to retain their appointments in consideration of these qualities. But wonder I need not; for I am quite certain they would not allow any consideration of ability, fidelity, or length of service, to prevent them one moment from dismissing all who stood in the way of their own advancement and profit. When they fraudulently crept into power in 1854, they quickly made a clean sweep; and as quickly would they do so again were circumstances conformable to their desires and their designs. When, however, in 1854, they exercised their authority against us, we made no silly outcry against them for doing so. We knew that the power by which they displaced us of our public position and offices was a constitutional one, and we submitted accordingly. We never wickedly sought to disturb the peace of the country by getting up indignation meetings, or causing physical demonstrations to be made in our favor, to procure our reinstatement in power and place, but feebly left every thing to take its constitutional course; and very soon the propriety and the wisdom of this course pursued by us was made apparent by our restoration to the position in the Legislature and the Government of which

we had been deprived. [Cheers.] Enough, much more than enough, has been said to convince all who have heard what has been spoken from this platform to-day concerning the dismissals of Messrs. Owen and Desbrisay of their property; yet there is just one observation more which, as it will serve to place in the strongest light the imperative necessity which the Government was laid under by Mr. Owen's insubordination to dismiss him, I will make before I conclude. It is this: Mr. Owen, in a letter which was read to you by the Hon. Col. Swabey, admits the imprudence and impropriety of which Mr. Desbrisay was guilty in voting against the Government; and yet after he had, on account of that imprudence and impropriety, been deprived of that right to vote, Mr. Owen, in spite of the Government, insisted upon his right to retain him in it! If this fact does not afford the fullest justification of the Government's dismissal of Mr. Owen on any circumstances, can be justified on such score. [Hear! Hear! Hear!] For any man who has heard the full explanations which have this day been given concerning these dismissals, to argue that they were high-handed, tyrannical, or unjust, would be a proof of his great want of judgment or honesty, or of both; and for men who were, from the first, fully cognizant of all that led to these dismissals, to have endeavored to get up a monster meeting to pass resolutions expressive of their indignation against the Government for a constitutional exercise of their power in making those dismissals, at the awful risk which some of them have themselves predicted, argues—if it does not positively prove them to be insane—that they are not only possessed of much less sense, prudence and foresight, than falls to the lot of men in general, but that they have also less scruples of conscience, patriotism, or honor to restrain them than the most reckless and desperate class of political schemers that have ever been found in any country. The course which these men have adopted cannot certainly easily be equalled, either as it respects its absurdity or its wickedness. They have indeed madly sown the whirlwind, and assuredly they will reap the storm. The course which has been pursued by the Government, however, is that which, in justice to themselves and the country, they were bound to pursue. They have done what is right; and the event will prove it; but it would have been better had they done it years ago. [The hon. gentleman, on his thus concluding his address, was complimented by a round of hearty cheers.]

Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Gentlemen, the business of this meeting is now, I believe, nearly terminated; and, therefore, as most justly due to the High Sheriff who has so ably and impartially presided over it, and by whom all the necessary preparations for the holding of it conveniently and properly, and constitutionally were fully made in due season and with due discretion, I beg leave to move a Resolution, expressive of my hearty and entire approval, not only of the proper and satisfactory manner in which he presided over the holding of this Meeting, and of the good, impartial, and confidential manner in which he has presided over it; but also of the equally correct and efficient manner in which all the preparations for the holding of the General Election in this Colony were made, and of the prudent, impartial, and conciliatory manner which he presided at the election of the two members of Assembly for this City. On that occasion, as on the present, the most wisely chose to depend upon your natural good sense and peaceable dispositions for the preservation of order. Nobly, on that occasion, did you respond to his confident appeal to your own wisdom; and still more nobly, if possible, have you justified the confidence which he has placed in you. The gratification, gentlemen, which your noble conduct this day has afforded me is far greater than I can give you any idea of by words. By it you have at once obtained a triumph for yourselves, and conferred one upon the Government. How noble is your conduct compared with that of the men who, not long ago, spurned like followers at the heels of Colonel Gray, to be marshalled at the feet of a despicable and cowardly, yet tyrannical, a states ever sought to worm and wheedle themselves into the confidence of a people, that they might attain to lordship over them, which lordship can become theirs only by the overthrow of that system of government which is rooted in and derives its vigor from the people's will! The leaders of the Charlottetown Political Alliance, the men who have withdrawn from this meeting, the Cony Meeting, presided over by the High Sheriff, and have originated one of their own in a corner and under the eaves of the Old Court House, might as well, so far as anything of a public nature is or can be concerned with it, have retired, for the purpose of holding it, to their sanctum within the Temperance Hall, where the Unholy are wont to meet in secret conclave, and to which none are admitted except such as are sworn to secrecy with respect to their proceedings. [Hear! Hear!] By their cowardly conduct they have conferred themselves with such disgrace as they will never be able, by any of their future proceedings, to efface from their general political character; whilst you, on the contrary, by your noble conduct open, bold and manly, orderly, generous, and forbearing—have won for yourselves none—pestilence, priceless honor—which I am sure it will ever be your pride and glory to preserve unblemished.

The High Sheriff having left the Chair, and J. Freneman, Esquire, J. P., having been called thereto, the Hon. Colonial Secretary proposed a resolution—worded nearly as above—expressive of the high respect entertained for the High Sheriff by the meeting, and thanking him for the able manner in which he presided over it.

Mr. ARCHIBALD McKENNON, of West River, seconded the resolution; and the question thereon having been put, by the chairman, it was unanimously agreed to, with loud cheers, by the meeting.

The chairman having formally communicated the issue to the High Sheriff, that officer briefly returned thanks, concluding by the observation, "that it was not the first occasion on which he had secured the decided and hearty approbation of the Liberals, and he hoped it would not be the last;" and having done so, he was again loudly cheered.

Mr. ARCHIBALD McKENNON then came forward, and proposed a "Three Cheers for the Hon. the Colonial Secretary." In doing so, Mr. McNeill said that he was glad to see the very general manner in which the call made on them had been responded to. He observed that had the Liberal party allowed the Political Alliance to carry matters according to their own sense and unprincipled mode of procedure, it would have appeared that the supporters of constitutional liberty had forsaken their position, and yielded to the claims of the Tory faction. He, however, rejoiced to find that the contrary was the fact, as fully evidenced by the vast assembly around the platform. He said he was in favor of a strict observance of one or the other of two principles; namely, the holding, during good behavior of their offices by all subordinate officials, so long as they remain neutral in politics and have no power to vote at elections; or, on the contrary, that principle which has, almost in every case been observed here, under every administration, and which requires the removal of subordinate officials, as well as the heads of departments on a change of government. The latter being the practice in this Colony, he could see no cause for indignation against the Government for having enforced the principle in the cases of Messrs. Owen and Desbrisay. On the contrary, in his opinion, the Government were to blame for not discharging these officials some four years ago. The conduct of the communications Mr. Owen retained him on the leading of the serpent until his stinging propensities had grown to a dangerous pitch, when it poisoned the hand which fed it. So happened in the cases of Owen and Desbrisay; they acted as serpents in the bosoms of their benefactors. He said he rejoiced to see the failure of the Alliance party in their attempt at a monster meeting around their opposition platform to which they treacherously resorted. There were to be seen but few indeed of the hardy sons of toil. Their party consisted, in general, of the hungry wretches of the old faction from the different localities, accompanied by a few dependants. He rejoiced to see that but few Bastards obeyed the summons of Col. Gray and the Alliance. He observed that he was a Protestant, and that, as such, he was proud to act in unison with his Catholic fellow-subjects for the emancipation of the territory of the Colony from the proprietary yoke; and he could inform the Tory obstructives that thousands of his fellow Protestants were of the same mind with him on that subject. He regretted, however, that too many for whose interest he had labored with his tongue and pen, to the best of his ability, for many years, were still led by that faction, whose sole object it was to hold the people in bondage and ignorance. He concluded by emphatically calling upon the Meeting not to allow the Political Alliance party to rob them of their rights and privileges; and by asking to whose hands the government of the Colony should be entrusted—whether to those who thought the people were to be ignored to have any voice in the selection of men to constitute the constitutional advisers of the Government? or to

those who, like the present Government, acknowledged it to be the constitutional privilege of the people, through their representatives in the Assembly, to choose and appoint the Executive Council; and who, like the present Government, would glory in deriving their power and honor directly from the people? If the latter were the men, as he was certain they were, whom they would choose to rule over them, they would declare it by three cheers for the Leader of the Government and his colleagues in the Executive Council.

Mr. McNeill's call was instantly responded to by three loud and hearty cheers.

Shortly after, on motion of Stephen Swabey, Esq., the assembled multitude walked in procession to Government House, for the purpose of testifying their respect for His Excellency, and their approval of his public career in administering the Government of this Colony; and having most enthusiastically cheered His Excellency and his amiable family, and His Excellency having duly acknowledged the honor thus paid him, the vast procession returned in the most orderly manner, and again assembled at the western front of the Colonial Building, where a committee was appointed to prepare and present an address to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, which address was almost immediately submitted to the meeting, and agreed to with acclamation. The address, together with His Excellency's reply, have been already published.

THE POST OFFICE.

The Protector having had to eat its look, in shame and confusion of face, when the irregularity in the transmission of the mail for St. John, of the 10th ult., was clearly shown not to be attributable to the Charlottetown Post Office, seeks now to evade the scorn and contempt with which slanderers are universally regarded by honest men, by asking with amusing naivete, "who could be expected to know by intuition that such was the fact?" Until the fact were known, the holy humbugs of the Protector should not have charged upon the Office here an act of commission or omission. In mere laymen such conduct would be pronounced uncharitable, unchristian and disgraceful to the perpetrators, but we suppose it is all right when the parsons "cry havoc and let loose the dogs of war" to hunt down a political opponent.

Hear the blatant Editor, and restrain your laughter, oh! reader, if you can:—

"When a letter is posted and registered as a money letter, there is an obligation, as we take it, imposed on the Post Office to take care that the letter is properly transmitted to its destination; and if it do not arrive there, to afford some good and sufficient reason why it has not."

According to this self-constituted authority on Post Office affairs, Mr. Davies' duty would be, in the case of a registered letter addressed to a party at the antipodes, to accompany it and deliver it in person to the person entitled to receive it. This supposition is in perfect keeping with the self-complacent presumptions in which the Editor indulges as to the passing of receipts between the various Postmasters; but full confirmation of the absurdity of the silly man of the Protector is afforded by his question, which we give *ipsis verbis*: "May he (Mr. Davies) not, with more propriety, be considered as the carrier, bound to deliver the article entrusted to him to the person to whom it is directed?" Can the power of nonsense go further? All this fustian has, to the great regret of the grumblers, proved but the baseless fabric of a vision, as no mail-bag is missing, no letters lost.

WARLIKE.

A verdant resident of Souris, yept Alexander Leslie, jun., desirous of reversing the order of the final disposal of events, which, we read, is to be preceded by the conversion of the sword into the ploughshare—appropriating to himself the language and sentiment of the Scottish hero, and fully sympathizing with the dramatic interlocutor in the spirit of self-importance, when he exclaims—

"My name is Leslie; on the Souris hills My father led his flock; a frugal swain Whose only care was to increase his stock, And keep his eldest son, myself, at home— But I had heard of battles, and I longed To follow to the field some warlike Lord"

would fain have the falchion engendered the coulter; and his aspiration is to come forth another Cincinnatus, noble from the plough.

We regret that the military enthusiasm of this "first born of the sword" should have been prematurely nipped in the bud by his not having the opportunity which even Major Sturgeon enjoyed of numerous marches and counter-marches, but really that the valiant men whom the modern Pepin led up the hill and down again, should have been put to the necessity of clothing themselves, is too much. Why, led by a Leslie! did they not scorn the brass fetters of the Saxon; and by appearing in *paris naturalibus*, show that the stern qualities of their sires glowed with unmitigated ardor in the persons of their sons.

We are somewhat surprised that this doughty Paladin—this vindicator of the chivalrous spirit of the Island—should not have blushed to declare that his fellow countrymen became "armed" at the warlike "vapouring" of the people of the States during the late Russian war. His "Excellency" the Minister at War, as well as all the other Excellencies to whom the gallant Captain of the Souris Invincibles has proffered his vagrant budget of grievances in language of more than questionable grammar—appear to have treated the application with sovereign contempt, as he has failed to elicit a reply from any quarter. We don't know any persons we should congratulate more sincerely on this manifestation of disregard, humiliating though it may be, than the fire-eating fellows who were so anxious to shoulder the Government muskets; for who knows how many of them would have inflicted irreparable loss on society by blowing their own brains out on the first occasion they attempted to display their military skill in ball practice? At the great Souris meeting last spring, when the Souris blackguards made themselves so conspicuous in the riotous proceedings which distinguished that event, the ringleaders were said to be those same worthies who were chosen to officer the new Company under the superior command of Mr. Alexander Leslie, jun. Of course they felt most acutely the want of the coveted fire-arms on that memorable occasion, when they were forced to adopt barbarous bludgeons as their implements of warfare. Had muskets, however, been at the disposal of the new Company, they would probably have been less chary of using them than they were of the murderous sticks; and the choice society of Souris may now felicitate itself, that the price of hemp has not risen with the rise of other things; and that the breed of the bludgeon-men of Souris is reserved for future political fights, while, in the interim, they may often adorn the social scene, and, "shoulder their sticks, can show how fields were lost."

LATEST INTELLIGENCE BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Mail from England, with the usual Colonial and Foreign Mails, arrived here on Friday last. The news furnished has been generally anticipated by previous arrivals at New York, and furnished to us by telegrams. We give, however, such extracts from our files as seem to embody the latest intelligence.

THE CALCUTTA MAIL.

MORE REINFORCEMENTS CALLED FOR.—VACILLATING MOVEMENTS OF THE REBELS.—NEAR SARIEM IN DIFFICULTY.—We are in receipt of news from Calcutta up to the 11th of

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

No. 2.

In resuming the consideration of this subject, we shall, this week, confine our attention to the religious, or, more correctly speaking, the moral aspect of the question.

All debts are the result of private agreement between the debtor and his creditor. The latter voluntarily parts with his property on the faith and confidence he reposes in the honesty of the former, and his ability to fulfil the obligations he may assume. This is the basis on which all bargains and sales on credit are effected, and which lies at the bottom of all commercial transactions, great and small, which occur without the immediate intervention of money or barter. The party purchasing does so with the full sanction of the vendor who chooses to trust to the good faith of his customer for his payment. The latter does not intend, by becoming indebted, to put himself in the position of a prisoner, if by the adverse revolution of the wheel of fortune—by the failure of his debtors—by the afflicting dispensations of the Almighty, prostrating him and his upon the bed of sickness, he should be unable to fulfil his part of the contract at the time limited for its performance. The creditor, on the other hand, does not sell his goods for the poor privilege of incarcerating the party to whom he entrusts them—he sells them for a profit to himself, for which he is content to wait a specified time, and in a majority of cases, as all know, the price to the purchaser is enhanced or diminished according to the period which must elapse before payment will become due.

There is no compulsion on the owner of the property to part with it—there is no law rendering it imperative on him to let his goods leave his possession—and surely it should not be allowed him to deprive of his liberty the party to whom he sells them—to render, it may be, his family dependent for their bread on the scantily-doled charity of the public, or the grudgingly-accorded contributions of individuals. As we write this, we have, in our mind's eye, more than one individual, who, after "wearing Heaven with prayer"—after addressing to his Maker the divinely-dictated petition, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors," rises from his knees and departs from the sanctuary, for the purpose, and with the premeditated intention, of consigning his debtor to the four walls of a goal!

— Can such things be, And overcast us like a summer cloud, Without our special wonder?"

If we consider that all wealth is the product and result of labor, and that the public is but an aggregate of individuals, two conclusions force themselves upon the mind with overwhelming power. One is, that any system or institution which tends to restrict or prohibit honest labor—(we do not refer to sanitary regulations, or limiting the hours of work)—has a direct tendency to impoverish the community in the exact degree to which the privation is carried, and not only so, but in addition to the loss in the productive capacity of society, the public are burdened with the support of the prisoner and his family.

The other reflection is, the gross absurdity of allowing any one person to inflict such loss and burdens on the whole body of the people, to gratify his cupidity or malice. What would be thought of that man who should cut off the right hand of another, and then seek to make his neighbors feed his maimed victim? Is the law for imprisonment for debt chargeable with greater folly? It allows the hard-hearted creditor to wreak, in many instances, worse than a felon's doom upon an honest man, striving to earn his daily bread by the sweat of his brow. It allows him to say to his helpless wife and family, "For you there is no longer a home; no more shall smiling peace witness your cheerful gathering round the humble but cherished hearthstone, the world is all before you where to choose;" the roof-tree of the workhouse or the canopy of Heaven must be henceforth your shelter; whilst him, the husband and the father, whom you loved and who loved you, I have sent to herd with felons of every degree of guilt, and deem not that when at length the tardy operation of the law opens the doors of his prison-house you will ever greet the same man who entered them. I have, by the power given me by that law, converted an industrious, honest, self-respecting and high-spirited citizen, into the broken-hearted, idle, degraded gaol-bird, whose life shall henceforth be aimless, and whose grave shall be unhonored." This is no exaggerated view. Many of our readers, we doubt not, can remember instances where such have been the actual results of this abominable law, which, we trust, will not be suffered to disgrace our Statute-book much longer.

Let the reader picture to himself the mental anguish which "man's inhumanity to man" can cause, aye, and has caused in many instances, where the dying pillow of the wife was smoothed by "stranger hands"—where he who had vowed, and as far as in him lay, had kept the vow, to cherish and keep her in sickness and in health till death should sever all earthly ties, lay a prisoner for some paltry debt, unable to soothe the last moments of the mother of his children, prevented from taking one last fond look at those eyes now becoming glazed in death, or from following her dead body to the grave! God knows it is painful enough to lay the loved ones in the earth when all that fond affection can do to restore to health, and to alleviate pain, has been done truly, the bitter draught needs not the added gall of man's cruelty.

Viewed in the light of religion, we know no creed of any people against the principles of which this law, as enforced among ourselves, does not militate. Heathen nations have, it is true, rendered the labor of the debtor available for the