

compatible with each other, and as I consider this to be the immutable decree of Providence, so likewise I think that to lament it is vain and unreasonable.

["Observations" No. 2 in our next.]

## THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, MAY 29, 1848.

### POSITION OF PARTIES.

KNOWING that very many of our Subscribers regard THE EXAMINER not only as the Organ and Exponent of a certain set of principles, but as the channel through which much of their political information is, or should be, derived—it may not be injudicious to describe—if description be possible—the relative *Position of Parties*.

When the present Representative of Majesty in this Island assumed the reins of Government, the policy of his predecessor's administration formed, as we all know, the chief topic of discussion, as well in private coteries as in public journals. Two years before Sir Henry V. Huntley terminated his official career, parties passed through what appeared at the time, a singular metamorphosis. Those who censured, praised; and those who praised, censured. He was obnoxious—and deservedly so—to the former, because it appeared to be his desire to strengthen the hands of a class of individuals who, by some means or other, possessed themselves of every official station in the country—swayed the Legislature—controlled the judgment of the Governor, and uniformly opposed any and every change sought to be introduced into the management of our local affairs. Any man who spoke of "reform" was pronounced guilty of "sedition"—any who dared utter a reproach against official delinquency was declared an enemy to the peace of society, for whom no punishment could be too severe. Time wore on apace. The enemies of Sir Henry became his friends—his friends, his enemies. Those hailed him as a convert—these vilified and stormed, because he withheld from them his confidence—because he whispered in the thoroughfares of Town the secrets of their misdeeds—and recorded them on the pages of his Despatch Book,—and because he not only listened to the suggestions of those who never darkened the threshold of Government House, but invited them to a participation in some of those minor official honors which his authority gave him power to bestow. Some accepted office; but their acceptance involved no change of principle. A few—a very few—of their own friends there were, who thought otherwise. This silly thought led to estrangement—the estrangement grew, in time, to enmity. And hence the origin of the term "Snatcher."

Sir Henry left our shores—the distinguished Baronet of Dunstaffnage came amongst us. The "Snatcher" cry gradually grew faint—now it seems to be forgotten. Yet, he whose love of sarcasm invested the term with a temporary popularity, coquets with the party who are every day demonstrating its application to themselves.

If the desire for office was the main cause of dissension in 1846 and 1847, it is not now difficult to determine with which party that desire is the more apparent. We find the official junto and their friends dogging the steps of His Excellency wherever he goes—prompt in the bestowal of their blandishment—generous in their praises of his merits—their nominees and dependents in Parliament advocating an addition to his salary—their vassals out of Parliament meekly tendering their homage, and frowning upon all who dare to think and judge before they act.

Whilst we hold ourselves wholly independent of His Excellency, and prepared to recognize him, not as Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, but the Representative of our Queen, and to form our estimate of his character solely by the manner in which he exercises his authority—we cannot but admire the easy triumph he has won over the adversaries of his predecessor—a triumph gained without any material benefit to them, or any violence to the feelings and opinions of their political opponents.

Can the spirit of party long continue in this quiescent or expectant state? Will Sir Donald Campbell be the first of Governors to work out a miracle—efface political distinctions—bury old feuds, and reconcile men of hitherto conflicting minds? His Excellency may hope in vain—if he hope at all—for such a foretaste of the millennium. However he may covet peace—however

zealous he may be in his efforts to maintain it—he must be prepared to listen to the murmurs of discontent from one side or the other. Every whipper-snapper of a Tory in the country recognizes, or pretends to recognize, in His Excellency, a friend—every man of adverse principles *hopes* he may not turn out a foe. Lead the "Clique" to believe that their interests are cared for—their influence respected—suffer them to encourage the hope, that they shall still be the channels through which the favours of official patronage must flow—when the time come at which His Excellency may have that patronage to give—convince them by a generous disposition to "let bygones be bygones," that no legislative enquiry or no popular animadversion, shall disturb any of them in their employments. By doing this, Sir Donald Campbell may secure the friendship and support of those by whom he is constantly surrounded; but would such a course of policy be hailed with any degree of satisfaction by the thousands who compose the population of the interior?

Those who call themselves the Liberal Party will be guilty of an egregious folly, if they supinely fold their arms and await whatever changes chance or circumstances may develop. Should we be content to watch the surrounding Provinces striding onward in the march of social and political improvement—to listen to the cry of Democracy affrighting Toryism from its strongholds in every corner of the Realm,—and pause to lift our voices lest we might disturb the harmony of His Excellency's fire-side? Does our political system require no improvement? Has the sound of reform become too offensive for our delicate ears, or shall we verify the reproach of the Colonial Minister, that we are too deeply steeped in ignorance to aspire to the privileges of British Rule?

It is no fault of His Excellency that his Government is bad. It is not his duty to break down an old system, and found a new one. That is the business of the people,—Kings and Courtiers, Ministers of State and Administrators of Government, are not often celebrated for reforming views. The veriest official up to the highest officer of the Crown are pretty generally satisfied to let things remain as they are. Overturn, if ye can, the pernicious system to which ye, Men of Prince Edward Island! alone of all the Colonies still cling. Her Majesty's Representative can, in justice, censure ye not. By doing so, ye not only right yourselves, but ye place the Governor in a higher and prouder position—ye place him beyond the machinations of intriguers to which over side they may belong—ye emancipate him from the trammels of party, and shield him from suspicion.

LOYAL ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.—Agreeably to a Requisition addressed to Francis Longworth, Esq., High Sheriff of Queen's County, a Public Meeting was held at the Old Court House on Wednesday last, over which the Sheriff presided,—and an Address to Her Majesty—prepared by a Committee appointed for the purpose—was presented to the Meeting, and signed by all who were present. The Address assures Her Majesty of the unshaken loyalty of the inhabitants of this County to Her Person and Government—their attachment to the institutions of the Mother Country, and their readiness, "under any circumstances which may arise," to support Her Majesty "in preserving the integrity of the Empire—the succession to the Throne in Her Majesty's august House, and the inviolability of our beloved constitution." Whilst we have no wish to find fault with the Meeting for offering an expression of their loyalty to the Queen—it is a very harmless proceeding, and entails no expenditure of time or money—we cannot help thinking that the step was an unnecessary one; because the loyalty of the people of this County or of this Island, has never yet been called in question—nor their attachment to British institutions in the slightest degree awakened by the revolutions which have toppled thrones in the foreign States of Europe. As to our support in preserving what is called "the integrity of the Empire," we could make but a sorry display if our services were really required; but they are not, nor are they likely to be required, this year at least. As regards the inviolability of "our beloved constitution," it would not, perhaps, be difficult to show that it is mere moonshine, particularly if we mean, when we use the terms, the "constitution" which was built by the honest hands and heads of the Russells, the Hampdens, the Sydneys, the Marvels, and the Pymms. We should like to hear a

description of the "constitution" from any of those people who are so ready with their professions of loyalty. As for ourselves, we venerate the Monarchy of England, and would wish to see it ever maintained in its integrity and purity; but we abjure from the bottom of our souls, the pernicious influence of a dominant aristocracy in England—let it be Whig or Tory, it matters not which—by which the Monarchy has been unhappily made subservient to its uses solely, and the very best principles of the original constitution annihilated.

THE ASSISTANT JUDGE.—Why is the Assistant Judge not appointed? The question has been put several times, during a few days, but we have been unable to answer it. We have heard, however, to-day, as a fact that may be relied on, that the appointment will not be made until Her Majesty's assent to the Bill be made known; and it is stated that the Steamer which will bring this information will also bring out a gentleman to fill the office—one, distinguished for his legal acquirements and talents, who has been seeking for a length of time some official employment in any one of the Colonies.

MR. WARBURTON AND HIS LATE CONSTITUENTS.—It is with much pleasure we hail the expression of opinion given by a portion of the late constituents of the Hon. MR. WARBURTON. His straight-forward and independent conduct in the first Session of the present Parliament—his prompt and unwavering support to every political principle advocated by the Reform Party during that Session—has given him a claim to a renewal of the confidence, with which he was entrusted at the General Election, which all the malice of his enemies can never set aside. But if there were any argument required—and we know there is not—to convince all the Electors of the First District of Prince County of the wisdom of the choice they had in the first instance made, it is, as the Public Meeting shews, the unfair and unjustifiable manner in which Mr. Warburton was excluded from his seat, at the commencement of the late Session—leaving the whole District to be represented by a gentleman who aided the partial disfranchisement of his constituency,—and—no doubt from conscientious scruples—followed up that step by changing from being a reluctant supporter of the principles under which he was himself returned, to an ever ready opponent of them. We do not complain of this circumstance: Every man has an undoubted right to follow any particular line of conduct which his judgment sanctions; but if he does so to the manifest injury of his constituents, and wholly contrary to their expectations, he cannot but expect to be told of it, and perhaps rebuked.

THE GOVERNMENT AND QUEEN'S PRINTER OF NOVA SCOTIA.—Mr. Crosskill—Queen's Printer of the Province of Nova Scotia—is permitted to give up his commission, because the new Administration are not disposed to tolerate the absurd practice which obtained in this Colony for a length of time, of allowing the Printer of the Queen's Gazette to aid and assist the enemies of the Queen's Representative and Government. In order that our Government Printer may be prepared for the change which must shortly take place in this Colony, we recommend to his careful consideration Lord Grey's Despatch of the 31st March, 1847. Under the new order of things, we have no doubt that we shall be enabled to announce Mr. Haszard's conversion to the principles of Responsible Government.

INCREASE TO OUR GARRISON.—In compliance with a request communicated to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia by His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell, the number of Troops for this place is to be increased to 120 immediately; and, after some necessary arrangements shall be made, the whole force will be augmented to two full companies.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We must apologise to a "Liberal Protestant" at St. Peter's Bay, for our omission to announce the receipt of his communication, in an earlier No. We thank him for his generous vindication of our character against the aspersions of one or two unprincipled assailants; but he will be good enough to excuse us from publishing his letter, as the subject upon which it treats has been well-nigh forgotten, and as we dislike to make our own paper the vehicle of our own praise.