

vinces is highly desirable. Of these the first is that relating to the service of the Post Office in the North American Provinces.

From the various despatches and other documents enumerated in the margin, your Lordship will learn how extreme and in fact insuperable is the difficulty of placing the affairs of the Post Office in the British portion of that Continent, on any secure and convenient footing without the aid of some central body competent to arbitrate between the various Provinces, and to establish regulations extending over, and throughout them all. I especially refer to the Report of the Post Master General to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, dated on the 18th of August last, and to the letter which, on the 10th of September last, communicated to this Department the views of their Lordships on that report.

You will thence perceive how willing Her Majesty's Government are to abdicate the powers of the Post Master General in British North America in favor of any competent local authority, to be legally constituted for the purpose. But your Lordship will also perceive that the creation of any such authority by the separate act of any one Province, or by separate and unconnected acts of the several Provinces, is virtually impossible. We have no solicitude to retain any control over the details and management of this service, but the reverse. A body of the kind I have already described, representing and acting for all the Provinces, might make an arrangement for the future, which would relieve the Post Master General of this unappropriate function. Without such aid I do not see how he could be exempted from the duty, to which from inevitable and insuperable causes his Department must always be unequal.

The other subject to which I have referred as requiring the co-operation of the different Provinces, is that of the formation of a great line of Railway communication from the Seat of the Government of Canada to the Atlantic.

The execution of such a work would, I am persuaded, be of the greatest advantage to the whole of British America; but the difficulties to be surmounted in so vast an undertaking are of no ordinary kind, and are only likely, I think, to be overcome by the united and energetic exertions of all the Provinces. Should the delegation of authority by the different Legislatures to some central body representing them all, be assented to, I should think it highly desirable that advantage should be taken of this to arrange the mode in which the Provinces should co-operate with each other, and with Her Majesty's Government, in promoting the construction of the proposed Railway.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GREY.

The Right Honorable,
The Earl of Elgin, &c. &c. &c.

THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1847.

THE DELEGATE'S PETITION.

We promised, in our last No. to offer a few comments on the Petition got up by a few individuals in Charlottetown, evidently at the instigation of Mr. Pope. Those who have read the Petition could not fail to have marked the striking resemblance which it bears to the Address passed by the Assembly in the Session of 1846, praying for the removal of Sir H. V. Huntley.

Of the nine charges preferred against His Excellency in this extraordinary document, there is not one that would be urged by men actuated by an honest principle and a love for truth.

The first is made up of six different propositions—each and all of which are without even the semblance of proof—they are, in fact, so false and absurd as to deter any rational mind from attempting to prove them. The first proposition declares that His Excellency has “degraded the office of Her Majesty's Representative by coalescing with a political party—some of whom have been stigmatized by him as persons totally unqualified to discharge the duties of Legislators.” The party here referred to are those members of Assembly who, in the last Session, co-operated with Mr. Rae in his views on Responsible Government—on the Tenant Ejectment and Compensation Bill,—and indeed upon every reform measure which, during the period alluded to, challenged the attention of the Legislature. It is something to get an acknowledgment from the enemies of Responsible Government, of His Excellency's adherence to the measure. Instead, then, of “degrading” his office by such an act, His Excellency honours it, we conceive, in an eminent degree. It was, and is, considered a great merit in the Governors of other Provinces to give their sanction and support to the views of a party, who have struggled for the adoption of the new and improved System of Government conceded to the Provinces by the present Prime Minister of England.—

That His Excellency “stigmatized” the Liberal Party, as now constituted, is not a fact: opinions he may have entertained in reference to the old Escheat party, while the Island was cursed with the arbitrary advice of Mr. Pope, and imposed upon by the Compact—have become obsolete from a change of circumstances and principles. English history would teach the Petitioners that Kings of England were often led to revile and stigmatize public men who subsequently became powerful and successful Ministers: history and experience are, however, lost upon fools.—The same party are accused, in the next proposition, of bringing His Excellency's person and Government into contempt, as well as those of his predecessors. We have every right to set this down for a deliberate falsehood, since no judicial proceedings are upon record by which this accusation of sedition can be substantiated. These people forget that their great champion—Mr. Pope—has given evidences within the last two years, of a disposition to bring the Head of the Government into contempt, unexampled by any thing in the history of the Island. They also forget that a certain notorious character—indignantly spurned from all moral society elsewhere—has been by them patronized and encouraged to libel and lampoon His Excellency, and his conduct in so doing has been applauded by certain individuals closely connected with the Administration. The parties who were mainly instrumental in getting up the Petition, are, at this moment, using greater exertions to bring His Excellency's person and Government into contempt, than were ever heretofore attempted by any political party in the Colony.—Another proposition in the first clause is, that the party with whom His Excellency has coalesced “are in the minority of the House of Assembly, and do not possess the confidence of the respectable and influential portion of the community.” A more glaring falsehood cannot be promulgated. Reference to the Journals of the House will clearly show it to be false. Here we discover that Mr. Rae stands in 35 majorities—Mr. Coles in 45—Mr. Palmer in 27—and Mr. D. Maclean in 25. This is a matter beyond all dispute: any person who has eyes, may see it. As to not having the confidence of the “respectable and influential portion of the community”—we are at a loss to understand the meaning of the assertion. If the fourteen people who have got up the Petition mean themselves, we cannot admit that their respectability is equal to their modesty, for the one is very insignificant—the other very conspicuous: their influence is wonderfully great—witness the last Election for the First District of Queen's County. We should very much like to know what accidents have given them a claim to either respectability or influence, beyond what has fallen to the lot of other more unpretending people. Wealth sometimes attaches to the rogue and the blockhead a counterfeit respectability; but, excepting two or three with whose names the Petition is emblazoned, and who have been somewhat canny in their day, we really do not know the fortunate fellows amongst the Petitioners on whom the smiles of Plutus have fallen. The history and geneology of most of them are full of interest: had we space, we might be tempted to pursue it. They refer to their influence, dreaming, perchance, of the time when they could discover little or no cause of complaint against His Excellency.—The “dangerous doctrines” ascribed to the Liberal Party, mean, we presume, Responsible Government—Tenant Right—and anti-official monopoly, with which, indeed, that Party have struggled to unsettle the corrupt “system of Government” that has too long prevailed “in the Island.” The assertion that a “lawless spirit” has been “encouraged among the people,” by the party referred to, and “a lamentable loss of life” occasioned by them, is a positive lie, which none but persons the most reckless of truth and principle, would dare to assert. Nothing can surpass this accusation, for its atrocious baseness and audacity. Men who could coolly pen such a lie, might be fairly considered as capable of stooping to any indecency.

The second clause refers to the old story about his Excellency withdrawing his patronage from the public societies. The Petitioners assert that his withdrawal from these Societies was in consequence of a disinclination, on the part of the Legislature, to grant an increase to his salary. Now, the Governor never gave this as a reason for the act referred to; and it is a piece of impertinence on the part of the Petitioners to offer a mere shallow supposition, for a positive fact. Besides,

is a Governor bound to support public societies, or does he retard the interests of the country by declining to do so? We suggest to the Petitioners the propriety of sending a Memorial to the Queen, to the effect, that the Royal Instructions may be amended, in order to make it compulsory on a Lieutenant Governor to support all public societies which a rage for novelty may bring into existence. A most unequivocal proof of the Lieutenant Governor's inclination to advance “the interests of the Colony,” is given in his separating himself from the Clique. His success is indicated by the Revenue.

The third clause alludes, in a rigmorole of meaningless terms, to His Excellency's interference with a Pleasure Party given by the Hon. Mr. Young about three years ago. The thing is so futile, and has been so often discussed, that, to notice it, is quite sufficient to call forth a smile of contempt for those who have proved themselves so egregiously silly as to revive the subject. The best answer, however, to this charge is the present relative position of the Gentleman alluded to.

The fourth accusation contains a shameful evidence of mendacity. It charges His Excellency with the Belfast Riots, because “precautionary measures” were not adopted “for the security of the lives and liberties of the Electors.” If blame must needs be attached to any party, we should say that party was the late Sheriff, for he could have had any assistance he wished in proceeding with the Election. The Petitioners overlook the fact, that their friends in the Assembly were extremely anxious for the Election to go on, without any delay; and had not a speedy return been made, they would have lost the alliance, in the House of Messrs. Douse and Maclean, whose votes, it was expected, would have enabled their party to burke Mr. Rae's Responsible Government Address.

The fifth complains that His Excellency does not take the advice of his Council. We answer, because the Council is not constituted as it ought to be. If the Councillors are useless instruments, as their friends confess them to be, why do they not resign their seats? An acknowledgment—more damaging to the credit, respectability, and independence of the Council—could not be offered.

[Want of space forbids to go any farther in our expose of this precious effusion. We shall next week return to it,—and perhaps we shall then have a few supplementary hints to offer for the edification of the gentlemen whose names are prefixed to the Circular which accompanies the Petition.]

MR. D. MACLEAN vs. MR. RAE.

It is a source of very considerable uneasiness to some of the would-be politicians in Charlottetown that Duncan Maclean, Esq. is not made an object of attack by THE EXAMINER. Now, whether or not these people have any great regard for Mr. Maclean, we cannot confidently affirm; but we are somewhat disposed to believe that Mr. Maclean—maugre his disposition to hurl his thunderbolts against the unresisting head of Mr. Rae, and to call him and his party hard names—has no very profound or platonic love for the *genus* who profess to admire him so much, and who boast of having gained, in the time of their tribulation, so redoubtable an ally as the New London Member. Mr. Maclean has neither said nor writ any thing against us, so far: when he does, it will be time enough for us to open our ports, and give him a touch of our quality. To be sure, he has written sundry philippics against one of his late political associates; but the gentleman referred to is quite capable of answering him at the proper time and in the proper spirit. Mr. Rae will smoke his pipe and take the matter coolly—just as we would ourselves be inclined to do, if similarly attacked. But when Mr. Maclean will have done writing his letters on the great crimes and misdemeanours committed by the very respectable party to whom he has facetiously given the *nomme de guerre* of “Snatchers,” why then we shall see what we shall see. “My wife will dance and I will sing”—or rather, Mr. Rae will write and we will print, and if we don't “merrily pass the day,” why we will be most grievously disappointed. Seriously, 'tis too bad that Mr. Maclean should be left singing solus so long—the music would be much more harmonious if Mr. Rae would come forward at once and make a duet; and nobody doubts that he can do it. As for our very humble selves, we shall e'en have to look on and enjoy the fun.