

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Mr. Davies' Address Criticised.

LETTER FROM HON. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

SIR,—I observe by the Patriot of the 8th inst., that Mr. Davies has again been airing his eloquence, though in rather a modest way. Instead of summoning a public meeting, as a representative of the people ought to do, where the men he undertakes to abuse could meet him face to face, he quietly calls a meeting of what he terms the "Junior Reform Association," where he has full license to indulge in his usual extravagant and incorrect statements without fear of contradiction.

Mr. Davies' statement that, "to the young of this country they must look for the success of the Liberal party," is I think nearly correct. He must feel that the men now acting on the political stage, as standard bearers of that party, are and have been great failures, and that before they can expect to achieve any success, the rump of the old Liberal party and the fossil Tories which at present compose the combination nicknamed "Reformers," will have to pass away, and be replaced by men of more progressive views.

Mr. Davies next divides the history of this country into "three epochs." He tells us that "whenever we see the rights of the people wrested from them, there is always a Tory leading the Government," and "that every outrage committed against the people is done when a Conservative Government is in power"—but he fails to tell us who these men are, or what these outrages were. I would like to know from Mr. Davies if the days he refers to were those when the Davieses, the Yeas, the Beers, the Pevers and the Lairds, the old extreme Tories, whom he now delights to call Liberals, were in power. It surely must have been for we find the very same men, who now call themselves Liberals, pursuing the same course at the present time, using every means in their power to obstruct and defeat every progressive measure introduced into the legislature.

Who, then, has Mr. Davies at the present time as political associates and who are the men who now return what he is pleased to term "Liberals" to Parliament? The same old Tory faction Mr. Davies so strongly denounces. Most certainly they are. But where do we find the real progressive Liberals? the men who were raised up and who fought under the banner of the great chieftains of Liberalism—Coles and Whelan? Do we find them amongst the Tory and old smooth-bore combination which now calls itself Liberal? No; but we find them in the ranks of the Liberal-Conservative Party, still true to the principles of their great leaders, endeavoring to carry progressive measures in the interests of the country. As it was then in the days of that grand old Liberal party, so it is now. The wheels of progress are attempted to be clogged by this old fossil Tory combination calling themselves "Liberals." Oh, shades of Coles and Whelan! Could you but rise now and behold the men who pretend to be your standard bearers, you would disown your followers, and disavow the mongrel combination made up of the remnants of the two old parties of the day when you so successfully fought the battles of your country.

But supposing we had a change in our Local Government, who would be the leader? Would it not be one of those horrid Tories, whom you so strongly denounce? It surely would be, for there is no other man in the present Opposition who is capable of taking charge; and I very much doubt if he would undertake to carry on a government unless he had some better material than now surrounds him in the present legislature. Would Mr. Yeo then be guilty of all those outrages which Mr. Davies lays up his charge? I do not think he would. There is another hope I have in the interest of the country, viz: That the present leader of the Opposition has too much sound sense to try to form a government, much less to carry on the public business of the country, with the material at present in his hands, and that consequently the conducting of public affairs would still devolve upon a man trained in the old Liberal school, who has successfully led the present government, and managed the business of this country for the last six years.

But these comparisons of Mr. Davies, those horrid Tories, spent all our money after Confederation, brought the country into ruin and would not listen to Mr. Davies' warning nor take his advice. He succeeded in driving them from power, and he became leader of a government. What did Mr. Davies? Did he attempt any reforms to reduce the expenditure? Did he follow the same course as leader of a government, which he advocated when in opposition? Did he reform the civil service and reduce its cost as he promised to do? No! but he launched out still more extravagantly than did his predecessors. He expended large amounts of money and levied a very large amount of direct taxes upon the people. He collected in the year 1877 the enormous amount of \$58,477 in taxes which came directly from the pockets of the poor people of this country, and in 1878 he levied \$48,801 more. Mr. Davies came into power in September, 1876, with a balance of \$40,000 to the credit of the Province, and, after an inglorious career of a little over two years, after having collected nearly \$100,000 in direct taxation, he went out of office leaving a deficit of \$73,000 as a fitting memorial of his great ability and financial skill as a leader of a Government.

kept on the Assessment Act passed during the three years we were in power, we collected \$76,330, or only \$18,483 more than Mr. Davies' string of figures in one year. What did we collect it for? To pay a portion of the debts contracted by him which leading the Government for the amount we collected was not sufficient to meet what was due on the Asylum contract, and what should have been paid on the public works in 1878, to say nothing of the \$23,000 due the teachers, and other bills which he left as a legacy to his successors.

Oh! Mr. Davies says the Government are \$40,000 in debt. Mr. Davies is a good guesser, but generally wide of the mark. But granting his statement is true, that would be \$18,000 less than the direct taxes which he wrung from the people in 1877, and \$8,801 less than he levied in 1878, and \$33,000 less than the amount by which he ran the country in debt in two years, after having nearly collected \$100,000 direct from the pockets of the people. We have been managing the affairs of this country for three years without one dollar of taxation, not even the old land tax, and we have been paying \$100,000 yearly for education, while Mr. Davies with his enormous taxation in 1877 of \$58,477, paid only \$86,000, and after levying \$48,801 of taxes in 1878, paid only \$68,000 for Education. We have paid off all his old liabilities, we have kept up the public service as efficiently, if not more so, than Mr. Davies, and made more improvements in our highways than were done under his administration. These figures tell their own tale, and, to my mind, prove most conclusively who are the most competent men to conduct the public affairs of this country—the old fossil Tories and the remnant of the Liberal party which now surround Mr. Davies, or the great Liberal-Conservative party, composed of the moderate and progressive men of the original parties, who at present rule the destinies of this Dominion.

But Mr. Davies makes another grave charge against the present Government. All the public officers, he says, are in confusion. He knows this statement is incorrect; but there was a time when the public officers of this country were in confusion, and that was at the close of the year 1878, when Mr. Davies was Leader of the Government; his extravagant policy had brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy; when poor men, who had honestly earned their money upon the public highways and bridges, could not get paid; when public contractors were paid interest on their money which was justly due, so as to let it lie over until the opening of a new year; when the government could only pay three quarters of the teachers' salaries; when public clamor became so great that Mr. Davies had to resort to the very doubtful means of opening a suspense account, of paying amounts in the Auditor's office which should have been paid in the Public Works office, in order that his disgraceful financial position might not be known, and that his unparalleled extravagance might be hidden for a time from the public gaze.

"Oh," says Mr. Davies, "Tories are not prudent or cautious men." I suppose Mr. Davies speaks from experience of the old Tory crowd with which he is associated, and he ought certainly to be an admitted authority upon that point. But if these qualifications are not necessary to make a good Tory, I think he should take a first prize, for a more imprudent and incautious man never led a government in this country.

My advice to Mr. Davies is that when next he wishes to air himself on the platform let local politics alone, as his course as a local leader will not bear inspection; and if his course as a Dominion representative is not more successful and brilliant; I predict for him a very short career.

Apologizing for trespassing so much on your valuable space,

I remain yours, &c., WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Public Works Department, Feb. 10 1885.

The Capes Disaster.

LETTER FROM THE REV. NEIL MCKAY.

SIR,—In the Presbyterian of the 5th, an article appears, headed "By all Means let there be an Investigation." I read that article only to-day, and felt that you and I have much to regret in respect to it. You that the writer belongs to your own political party, and I that much that the article contains could have emanated from the pen of a Christian minister. I have seen a good deal of heartless newspaper writing; but for lack of generous, humane feeling, this specimen "takes the cake." Let any man go through the wards of the City Hospital, let him look into the sunken eyes of these poor fellows, let him hear their groans of anguish, let him examine their blackened and wasting limbs, and then let him ask himself if the hand that faults in the face of these poor fellows, or any of them, such epithets as "sporting gentlemen," and "sprightly orators" can be guided by a rational brain or moved by a human heart!

At the close of the article you are blamed for prejudging the case, while the writer sets himself deliberately to work to discredit and break down the evidence. And upon what grounds? Because Dr. McIntyre was anxious to get to his public duties at Ottawa, and Mr. Fraser was eager to combine with business a visit to the Carnival at Montreal! Is there any man in Canada, other than the editor of the Presbyterian, who could find in either of these circumstances any ground upon which the evidence of these gentlemen should be received with a "grain of caution"? The very insinuation is monstrous and disgraceful. Of what concern is it to the newspapers, or to the contractors at the Capes, what a man's object may be in seeking to cross the Straits? When any man, were he even a fugitive or a criminal, places his life in the hands of public servants, who receive pay for work required, he is entitled to their most considerate care and best efforts for his preservation; and if, after suffering peril of life and loss of limb, as so many, complaints of neglect and incompetence should be made, it is folly to deny the right of the sufferers to make such complaints, and impudent effrontery to attempt to discredit their statements by taunts of "sporting gentlemen" and "sprightly orators."

If the Presbyterian considers the statements of Mr. Fraser and Dr. McIntyre damaging to his party or his friends, would it not be better to produce, if he can, the evidence of some eyewitness to disprove the statements? Let him show, if he can, that the morning was such as would have

justified experienced men in attempting to cross; that the compass carried was good and reliable; that the boats carried axes and shovels and other implements necessary in case of delay; that there was a supply of food for passengers and crew sufficient for a single meal. At present it appears on the unanimous testimony of many witnesses that every one of these points must be disposed of in the negative. And if this is so, it concerns more than the poor fellows who so nearly lost their lives. It concerns the people of Canada to know that an important branch of the public service is conducted on principles so reckless and foolhardy.

Until the matter is officially investigated, however, let us reserve our censures. Let us not forget that many of the Capes men themselves are among the greatest sufferers. Let us not forget that these men have a reputation of thirty years' standing for kindness, and carefulness, and courtesy which cannot be swept away by a single failure, even if it appeared that some of them were to blame. And let us especially bear in mind that the poor equipment of the boats is chargeable to the parsimony of successive governments rather than to the negligence of these men, who themselves ran a common risk with their passengers. Above all, let us mark with our abhorrence the thought of hurling taunts at respectable men who met misfortune while pursuing honorable and legitimate purposes; and that, too, while they are still racked with pain or quivering under the surgeon's knife.

N. McKay, Summerside, Feb. 10, 1885.

The Stewart Case.

SIR,—Referring to the communications in the EXAMINER of the 10th and 11th inst., from Messrs. Arthur Peters and H. J. Palmer, in explanation of the settlement which took place between their clients, Stewart and McGregor, your readers no doubt think it quite superfluous that they, Peters and Palmer, should have made any reference to the dispensation of costs, because all knew who heard of the trial that whatever else took place, through the glorious uncertainty of the law, poor Stewart would be badly treated.

BIRCH BARK, Charlottetown, 13th February.

Hospital Bazaar.

The bazaar in aid of the P. E. Island Hospital, was commenced this afternoon in the Market Hall. The hall is tastefully decorated, the fancy tables are well arranged, and abundantly supplied, and the tea tables are loaded with choice viands, and attentively waited upon. The attendance is very large and everything points to a grand success. Following are the ladies in charge.

- Fancy Table.—Mrs. Col. Gray, Mrs. G. MacLeod, Mrs. J. MacLeod, Mrs. Cooke, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. C. Palmer, Mrs. Rice, Miss Ball, Miss Lockett. Tea Table No. 1.—Mrs. Mackinlay, Miss E. Stewart. Tea Table No. 2.—Mrs. Coleman and Miss Pethick. Tea Table No. 3.—Mrs. Frame, Miss Cundall, Miss Mary Palmer. Tea Table No. 4.—Mrs. Coffin, Mrs. Beales, Mrs. Nicholson, — Gillis. Tea Table No. 5.—Mrs. W. Millar, Mrs. W. Weeks. Refreshment Table.—Mrs. Unsworth, Mrs. Beales, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Worthy, Miss A. Beer, Miss G. Brown. Toy Tables—Miss Gray, Miss Ethel Palmer. Candy Table—Miss Poole, Miss Findley, Miss Farquharson, Miss Unsworth.

HABITS OF FISH.—Such as ascend our rivers to spawn, are the same that descended them, as everybody seems to know. But it is not so generally known that the river spawners, when they arrive, go up on one side of the river and come down on the other. It may be worth while to make a note of this, as the fact has been ascertained, reported, and made a point of in the interest of fish men.

A MUTUAL friend at Summerside informs us that J. A. Morrison is doing very well. Throwing his all into his feet and the loss of issue will not be so great as was at first feared. His general condition is very good. He suffered none from removal.

A MEETING of the Hockey Club will be held in the office of Messrs. Egwall & Robins to-night at seven o'clock sharp. Parties wishing to join will please attend.

TENDERS for the construction of the new Dominion Building must be in Ottawa on or before the 25th of February, inst. Intending contractors will please take notice.

A SPECIAL TRAIN will proceed to Cape Traverse to-day to convey Mrs. Jarley and her great Waxwork Show to Charlottetown.

NUMBERS in charge of children will be admitted for 10 cents to Mrs. Jarley's Matinee on Saturday afternoon.

The letter of Mr. Arthur Peters, in answer to Mr. J. James Palmer, received, and will appear to-morrow.

ONE hundred and ten bags of Mails left Cape Traverse at 3:30 by special train for this city.

THE public are expected to patronize the Hospital Bazaar in first-class style.

BIRTH.

At Brackley Point Road, Jan. 27, 1885, the wife of Capt. Isaac Henderson, of a daughter.

DIED.

At Souris, on the 9th inst., John, dearly beloved son of Dr. E. B. and H. M. Mutari, aged two years and nine months.

Inland Steam Navigation Company

Prince Edward Island.

THE Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, King Street, on Saturday, the 28th day of February instant, at 3 o'clock p. m., for the election of directors and the transaction of other business. By order of the President and Directors, JOHN HUGHES, Secretary. Ch'town, Feb. 7, 1885—Law pat

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Ch'town, Dec. 17, 1884.

KING'S COUNTY Liberal Conservative Association.

A MEETING of the supporters of the Liberal Conservative Party, for the purpose of organizing a Liberal Conservative Association for King's County, will be held in the Town Hall, Georgetown, on Tuesday, the 24th February inst., at the hour of 3 o'clock, p. m. Delegates from each polling division in the county are respectfully invited to attend.

- D. GORDON, M. P. P., Georgetown. ARTHUR J. McDONALD, M. P. P., Georgetown. JOHN McLEAN, M. P. P., 1st District, King's Co. L. KICKHAM, M. L. C., 1st District, King's Co. THOMAS ANNEAR, M. L. C., 2nd District, King's Co. JOHN McDOUGALL, M. P. P., 3rd District, King's Co. King's County, Feb. 10, 1885—21 her pms

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Ch'town, Dec. 27, 1884.