

When a member of Assembly should accept a government office of emolument under the Responsible System, his seat being vacated, he would have again to appeal to the people, and should they reject him, the consequence would be that—if the government required him, as an official to have his seat in the Assembly—he would lose both his seat and his office. And what, he might ask, could be a better guarantee for strict integrity, on the part of officials, being members of Assembly, than the knowledge that their tenure of office was wholly dependent upon good behaviour; and the certainty that, although they might retain their appointments during the legal existence of a House, if they had been found underserving, they would be altogether cast aside by the people? One honorable member had strongly insisted that it was proving the ruin both of Canada and Nova Scotia. To disprove this assertion, however, it was sufficient to allude to the fact, that parliamentary majorities in these Provinces are increasing, and to the still more significant one, that their Revenues have amazingly improved: that of Canada about a quarter of a million, as he was led to understand from an authentic newspaper report, whilst that of Nova Scotia, according to the official statement from the officer entrusted with the collection of the Revenue, was augmented to the amount of £15,000. This extraordinary increase of revenue was not, it might safely be assumed, indicative of "ruin and decay," as had been said to have attended the establishment of Responsible Government in the Provinces to which he referred; and what was especially worthy of notice, the increase was effected under the operation of tariffs fully as conducive to the promotion of trade and commerce as those which emanated from preceding administrations. If the system were based upon folly and vice, it could never be productive of such happy results to any country in which it might exist. The consideration also, that comparatively few could procure official appointments, was almost, in itself, sufficient to disprove the assertion that the system was calculated to produce corruption; for it could not surely be supposed, that a majority of the representatives of the people would lend themselves to the support of a corrupt system for the pecuniary benefit of merely three or four individuals. The honorable member then attributed, as Mr. Coles had done, the dissatisfaction of the people in New Brunswick with the Responsible System, to the fact that its imperfect working was solely attributable to the coalition which had taken place between the Tories and Liberals in the Assembly. The honorable member concluded by saying that the proceedings of the Government, for the last twelve months, had been justly characterized by the hon. member from Bedeque, as being of the most arbitrary and indefensible kind; and were undoubtedly deserving of the strongest censure and reprobation of the representatives of the people.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON denied that the circumstances in which Sir John Harvey found himself immediately previous to the introduction of Responsible Government were at all analogous to those in which Sir Alexander Bannerman is placed here. In Nova Scotia the general election was to decide the question touching the introduction or withholding of Responsible Government; and its adoption followed of course. And with respect to the preliminary steps taken by Sir John Harvey, before the settlement of details, they were not in direct contravention of his instructions. But Sir Alexander was only authorized to introduce Responsible Government into this Colony on certain conditions; and, therefore, unless these conditions should be complied with by the Assembly, he was not at liberty to take one step towards the introduction of the Responsible System.

Hon. SOLICITOR GENERAL said honorable members had been travelling out of the record, having taken up the question of Responsible Government, as if forged out of the ground embraced by that had so often travelled in every direction. He trodden completely bare, as to the Lieutenant Governor had told the Assembly, that Responsible Government would be granted.

certain conditions; and the question, therefore, immediately before the House was, should they or should they not, submit to those conditions? Should the majority of that House submit to the conditions annexed to the proffered concession by Her Majesty's Government; or should Her Majesty's Government submit to the Majority and withdraw the conditions? That was the real question. And, although the amendment had been very artfully drawn, with a design to conceal the real object of those by whom it had been prepared; yet, when it should go forth as the Address, it would not require much discernment to perceive that the literal meaning was, "We must have office; and immediately too. We must be allowed to trample over the heads of the old Government." And to have it in their power to trample upon that Government, and crush them in the dust, they had plainly shown, they could have recourse to every means and every accusation, however unfair and unjust. They had manifested every disposition to paint the Government as black as Satan himself. But the honorable member from Bedeque (Mr. Pope), had taken care not to carry his charges against the Government too far back, lest he should have found himself very inconveniently and awkwardly implicated in the very proceedings which he sought to have condemned. But after all, what are the charges which the majority had been able to exhibit against the Government? What was the extent of their impeachment? Why, as respected the Treasury it merely amounted to this—It became known to the Government, as well as to the public, that the Treasurer's pecuniary embarrassments were very great; and they forebore to take advantage of his unfortunate situation, and, at such a moment to kick him out of office, on the plea, that although no malversation had been proved against him, it had once been rumoured that he had abstracted about £3000 from the Treasury. The honorable member from Bedeque had indeed said, with reference to that rumour, that had the investigation consequent upon it been made in time, it would have been found to be a fact. But he (hon. Sol. General) would like to ask, had they not then a Mr. Pope? [Mr. Pope. I was not in the Council at that time.] If he was not in the Council, pursued the honorable and learned member, he was in the Assembly. But so far was he (Mr. Pope) then, from joining in the rumoured accusation preferred against the unfortunate Treasurer, or seeming to believe it, that he (hon. Sol. General) had met him at the very time when the accusation first became a rumour, in the House and at the table of the Treasurer, drinking his champagne. [Mr. Pope denied the truth of the assertion, insisting that at the period alluded to by the Solicitor General, suspicions against the Treasurer did not exist, but the honorable Solicitor General insisted that he was correct.] No man had ever more strongly insisted upon observance of the legal maxim, "that every man must be held innocent until he shall be proved to be guilty," than the honorable member from Bedeque had been known to do, when it suited his purpose to uphold the justice of the principle. But in his eagerness to condemn the Government, he could not allow that, with respect to the late Treasurer, they could allow him even but a few days to exonerate himself from the imputation cast upon his character, without thereby affording a proof of their own want of integrity. Of this, however, he (hon. Sol. General) was satisfied, that no just man would condemn the Government because they had allowed an individual suffering obliquely from unproved and uncertain reports, time to answer and disprove, if possible, the rumours which injuriously affected his character. The verdict of all honest men would be in favour of the Government on that head; they might, therefore, very well disregard the condemnation of others.

[After a few further observations by the Solicitor General in reference to the suspension of the Mails, and replies thereto by Messrs. Coles and Pope, the Amendment was agreed to and the Committee rose. The observations referred to have been furnished by the Reporter, but we have omitted them from want of space.]

On the Amendment being reported to the House, a division was taken as follows:

For the Amendment—Messrs. Coles, Pope, Warburton, Whelan, Jardine, Davies, Clark, Beaton, Flynn, McNeill, Fraser, Mooney, Laird—13.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Palmer and Thornton; Messrs. Douce, Longworth, Montgomery, Haviland, Yeo—7.

## THE EXAMINER.

Monday, May 5, 1851.

### LETTER II.

#### To the Constituency of the Second District of King's County.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW COLONISTS—

Now that the difficult and perplexing contest between the friends of constitutional liberty and the enemies of every Reform, has happily been brought to a close, duty and inclination prompt me to offer you some observations in reference to the sacrifices by which victory has been achieved, and to the common advantages which it confers.

After eight years of almost incessant toil and anxiety—borne amidst calumnies of every imaginable description—it is not unreasonable to indulge, with exultant spirits, in mutual congratulations, on the successful issue of that toil. Nearly five of those eight years have been devoted to your service; and were it not for the support and confidence which I have received at your hands, during that period of time, and which other members of the Majority have obtained from "true men like you," at the several stages of their political career, the victory would yet be unwon, and the exultation deferred. Hence our congratulations should be mutual.

During the winter which has just passed away, I explained to you, at a series of public meetings, the position in which the Assembly stood with the late Lieutenant Governor upon the question then at issue. It will not be necessary to advert to the several topics, arising out of that question, then discussed. I referred to the demand made by his late Excellency for retiring allowances on behalf of three officers of his Government—and the refusal of the Lieut. Governor, should that demand be complied with, to make any, save a very partial, inadequate, and unsatisfactory change in his administration. I informed you of the determination of the Assembly to withhold the allowances, under the circumstances proposed. I stated my own opinion in regard to those allowances, namely, that the advantage of possessing three seats in the Executive Council by three members of the majority, was by no means commensurate with the sacrifice which the concession would involve. I did not state that Responsible Government was not worth the amount demanded for the officers on whose behalf Her Majesty's Government thought proper to interpose; but I shewed that the House of Assembly could not consistently proceed with the performance of the public business, and vote the disposal of the people's money to an Executive Council not enjoying the confidence of the people, for the paltry consideration of three seats in the Cabinet.

"The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." The good deeds, if any there

were, which characterized the administration of Sir Donald, have been cast into oblivion by the evil ones that survive him, the most prominent of which is misrepresentation of the objects and intentions of the Assembly.

Since the Assembly have not obtained copies of the late Governor's correspondence, it is impossible to estimate the amount of injury sought to be inflicted upon its character by the *ex parte* statements of Sir Donald. The unnecessary interference of the Home Authorities in our postal regulations, is one of the results of these statements. The alarm of the Colonial minister for the preservation of the public tranquility in this Island, and his suggestion in regard to an increase of the Military force,—is another consequence of the mischievous use to which Sir Donald's pen was applied in his correspondence with Downing Street, and shews that he had dared to describe one of the most loyal and peaceable of her Majesty's possessions as in a state of rebellion.

When we consider the hostile feelings of Sir Donald, combining with the formidable influences of the late official party and money jobbers in Charlottetown, and with the proprietary junto in England, to frustrate the object of the constitutional party, the victory achieved by the latter is one of no ordinary importance. Nor has the cost of victory been such as to lessen the exultation of the victors.

The land yet echoes the out cry of the Obstructives; that the Responsible Government party had abandoned their promises, and increased the burdens of their constituents, in order to obtain office and emolument for themselves. In both premises, the outcry is false. No promise has been violated—no burthen imposed. It is true, the majority of the Assembly repudiated, and still do repudiate, the abstract principle of pensions, as being incompatible with the means, habits, feelings, and opinions, of the people. It is true, the same majority failed to discover the claims of the gentlemen to retiring allowances, on whose behalf such allowances were demanded; and did not hesitate to communicate to the Lieutenant Governor their opinions on the subject. But when his Excellency replied that it was not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to impose a Pension List on this Colony—that it was merely compensation which was required for two officers who had long served the public—that this compensation was an absolute and imperative condition to the concession of Responsible Government—that he had no discretion from the Colonial Minister to waive that condition,—surely, then, it became the duty of the Assembly to yield their opinion in reference to the claims of the retiring officers—relieve His Excellency from great embarrassment and responsibility—remove obstacles to the transaction of the public business—save the Colony from the further bad effects of a long-continued agitation—alleviate public discontent and anxiety—and, finally, procure for the people the privileges and rights of British subjects, by at once waiving the allowances, which amount to only four hundred pounds. The Obstructives say we did wrong in doing so,—(and be it remembered that amongst our complainants were Executive Councillors whose duty it was not to embarrass the Lieutenant Governor by opposition to his instructions); but I wonder did they ever say we did right