

The Examiner.

AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

New Series.

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Letter from the Hon. Joseph Howe, TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF HALIFAX.

GENTLEMEN;

Having been charged, by the Lieutenant Governor, with a Mission to England, involving very important Provincial interests, I shall leave Halifax in the Steamer to-morrow, and will probably be absent eight or ten weeks.

During the last Summer, I visited every section of the County, and believe that there is nothing which any of you have confided to my care, or to which my attention has been called, that has not been dealt with as you desired, so far as the means at the disposal of your Representatives would admit.—Should any casualties occur, prompt attention will no doubt be paid to any proper representation made to the Government, through my Colleague, Mr. Mott.

As I have not had an opportunity of publicly addressing you, since the present Administration was formed, it may not now be out of place for me briefly to enumerate the leading measures to which its sanction and support have been given, and the questions which have been honourably and permanently settled.

Responsible Government, administered through Heads of Departments, holding their places by tenure of public confidence, has occupied, as you are quite aware, a conspicuous place in the public discussions of British America for the last ten or fifteen years. Sustained by your sympathies, I gave, as a public Journalist, some years of life to its advocacy, at a time when there was much ignorance and indifference on the one side, and the whole weight of Executive and Legislative authority on the other. Excluded from the Administration in 1843, I still asserted, in every hamlet you inhabit, and in every County of the interior, the principles for the security of which my friends and myself retired; and which, with the aid of the Liberal Majority returned in 1847, we have lived, as Members of Administration, to establish. The days of toil and nights of mental anxiety which every prominent man of our party passed through during that long contest, few of those engaged in it are ever likely to forget. We have lived, however, to see our principles triumph—to see them recognized after full debate, by the Lords and Commons of England—to see them clearly enunciated by successive Secretaries of State; and in Canada and New Brunswick, no less than in Nova Scotia, supplying new securities to liberty, and fresh vigour to every branch of Administration.

The old system of Government naturally generated extravagance, and coupled with the general Constitutional questions, was the subsidiary but yet important matter of economical reform. The People of Nova Scotia never did grudge a fair remuneration to those who transacted the public business. The Liberal party in opposition, therefore, pledged themselves only to that rational measure of reduction, which, as a Government, they were prepared to yield. Let us see how these pledges have been redeemed.

Until recently consolidated and remodelled, the principal Departments of the Governments cost:

Two Land Departments	£2010 17 3
Two Revenue Departments	12,610 8 7
The Treasury	891 10 8
The Secretary's Office	2012 10 0
	£17,525 6 6

There being no efficient Inspection of Accounts provided for. As the Departmental system has been now arranged, the entire expense will be

The Land Department	£850 0 0
Receiver General's Department	891 10 8
Revenue Department	5401 1 0
Financial Secretary's Department	800 0 0
Provincial Secretary's Do.	1400 0 0
	£9342 11 8

Making a reduction of expenditure on these Branches of the Service, contrasting their cost in 1847 with what they cost now, of

	£8182 14 10
To which may be added other Savings, effected under the Civil List Bill, amounting to	1412 10 0
	£9585 4 10

Deducting three Pensions from the above

	925 0 0
The immediate Saving then is	£8670 4 10

The ultimate Saving, when the Pensions fall in, will be £9595 a-year.

Coupled with the question of the Civil List, was another which touched the Registry of Deeds. This never could be settled while the present Opposition were in power, the retirement demanded for Sir Rupert being greater than the House would consent to give. You will soon feel the advantage of a final adjustment of this vexed question, and in a few days after I quit the shores of Nova Scotia, the cost, all over the face of it, of transferring property, and confirming titles, will be reduced to nearly one half what it is now. This Bill will effect an important saving to all classes; to the poor, who often lose their votes, or have their rights endangered by the expense of Registration, it will prove an acceptable boon.

The Bill for consolidating the Crown Land Departments, withheld by the Colonial Secretary in 1845, was confirmed in 1849. Besides the saving of expense, greater concentration and efficiency have been secured. Maps, showing the granted and ungranted lands, in every County, are in course of preparation, and when these are completed, other improvements, of which this Department is susceptible, will be introduced.

As a necessary part of the Departmental system, the Bill to enable members to vacate their seats, either upon the call of their constituents, or otherwise, will be found useful and convenient.

The Act passed in 1848, "to render the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Master of the Rolls independent of the Crown, and to provide for their removal," though met with much clamour at the time, establishes a salutary control, without impairing the dignity or weakening the moral influence of the Bench.

The construction of the Electric Telegraph gives you, on a cheap scale, an apt illustration of the principle which the Lieutenant Governor now seeks to apply to works of greater magnitude. Built by the public funds, and managed for the public security and advantage, it already pays the interest on the capital, its working expenses, and a handsome profit, to be applied to the return of the capital or to the extension of other lines. It is clear then, that we get for nothing the profit of all the labour and employment that the construction of the Telegraph gave—all the social and commercial facilities which rapid communication with the great cities of this continent, and even with the West India Islands, gives to our people. Nay, we get them for

less than nothing. The Telegraph will pay us for our enlightened appreciation of its value. Let us apply the same principle to the Railroad, and trust in a kind Providence for a like return for our expenditure.

The want of an accurate Census of the Province has long been keenly felt: under the law of last Session an enumeration of our population and stock, will be obtained in 1851, and the returns prepared will present to you a faithful picture of every branch of our Provincial Industry.

The Consolidation of our Laws is steadily advancing. This is a work of great labour and importance, honourably engaged in by acute minds of both parties, and so far ripening to maturity, that in 1851 you may have in one portable book all the laws of the Province, now scattered about in many volumes, and actually inaccessible to the great body of the people.

It is sometimes said that the Government is not dealing vigorously in reference to Light Houses and the Isle of Sable. Those who indulge in these attacks cannot be accurately informed. During the past Summer a mass of valuable information in respect to our Light Houses was forwarded to England, which cannot fail to secure the co-operation of the Imperial authorities in placing our Colonial lights on the very best footing which modern science approves. Two or three new Light Houses have been built during the past season, and an equal number will be erected in 1851.

As regards the Isle of Sable, ever since the inquiry instituted into its management, in the winter of 1848, the Government have never lost sight of this branch of the public service. Mr. Townshend's Report was followed by a searching investigation, which led to a change of management, and to various improvements; and I have just laid before the Lieutenant Governor the results of a personal inspection, which I trust will by and bye satisfy you that the public interest, in this department, is not neglected.

It is probable that both these services may yet be combined under one Commission, as soon as the sanction of the Legislature is given to an Act to be submitted for that purpose.

The improvements made in the new School Act of last Session are, I believe, working beneficially. For the first time in our history has an Officer of the Government passed over the face of the country, rousing the people to the importance of Education, and imparting information in regard to it. He has not, of course, yet penetrated into all the remote sections, but the stimuli applied to the more populous and important centres, will soon be felt at the extremities.

As soon as the arrangements can be completed, One Thousand Pounds worth of valuable Books will be distributed over the Province, and formed into School Libraries, giving perhaps on an average 1000 volumes to every County.

These, my friends, are substantial fruits, yielded to you by a liberal administration, and springing from the patriotic and enlightened legislation of the men returned to Parliament in the stirring contest of 1847. "By their works ye shall know them," and truly of their works the gentlemen with whom I have been a humble fellow labourer, need not be ashamed. Political opponents of course abuse them, and political and personal friends love to show their independence by finding fault, but let either match the measures of the past three Sessions, from the records of any ten to be found in the political history of the

Province. Let either find me, from the history of party in any Country, one that so fully carried out, in office, the pledges made upon the Hustings.

One measure, and one only, to which the Liberal Party have pledged itself they have yet to perfect—I mean the revision of the Post Office, and the reduction of Postage to an uniform rate. Over the causes of the delay we have no controul. The Imperial Government have informed us they are not yet prepared to make the transfer. We stand ready to discharge our honorable obligations, and to perform our duty, when they do.

I need say little of county improvements—these are before you and you can estimate their value. The two or three remaining Sections of the Guysboro' Road have been finished this Summer—twenty eight miles of the Harvey Road, along the Eastern shore, have also been completed; half a dozen important Bridges have been constructed, the damage by freshets has been repaired, and the Cross Roads are steadily improving.

While faithfully applying the public funds to internal improvements, we have not been unmindful of measures necessary to the extension of our inter-colonial and Foreign Trade. With all the surrounding Colonies a reciprocal interchange of productions has been established, and seven or eight new Ports of Entry have been opened for the accommodation of our Vessels trading on the open seas. The best proof that our Commerce is reviving and extending, is to be seen in the increase of our Revenue which I have little doubt will, by the close of the year, show an increase of £15,000 over that of 1848, the year that we assumed the controul of public affairs.

Our efforts to establish a reciprocal trade with the United States have not yet been successful. The failure is fairly attributed to the influence of Class interests in that country, over which we have no controul. A charge is often made against us, arising out of this negotiation, upon which it is proper for me to make a single observation. It is said that we have yielded up our Fisheries to the Americans for no corresponding advantage. To this charge I give a flat denial; and when the Correspondence is submitted to the Legislature, trust me you will perceive with what jealous watchfulness your rights of Fishery have been guarded, and what substantial equivalents were demanded in return for the concessions we were prepared to make.

Another charge sometimes brought against us by our friends is, that we have not displaced the subordinate occupants of office.—This is true—but it is equally true, that not only were the Liberal Leaders never pledged to do this, but that, at every Public Meeting I attended, from 1843 to 1847, I repudiated the practice, with the approbation, and amidst the cheers, of thousands of Liberals, of whom those meetings were composed.

From this brief review it is apparent that not only has no public pledge been violated by my friends, but that every one given to their countrymen has been honorably redeemed.

The past, with all its valuable results, is before you. But no political party—no administration, indifferent to the duties of the present hour, and unmindful of the future improvements, can live upon the fame of past achievements, and grateful reminiscences of by gone labours, however honourable these may have been. The cry and the great want of Nova Scotia, at the present time, is further Industrial development—active employment for the people, new and improved facilities for business and social intercourse