

The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

Vol. II.]

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1848.

[No. 71.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF PRINCE COUNTY.

GENTLEMEN;

It seems probable that I will be absent from the Colony during the ensuing Session. This does not of necessity vacate my seat. Yet it must be mentioned that certain members, both last Session and since, have threatened that this Session the House would inflict some punishment upon me, and that probably this would be expulsion. If the Assembly should so act, it will then be my duty to shew that my conduct did not deserve censure. But if the House does not censure me, I see no necessity of taking further public notice of the extraordinary virulence displayed towards me by some individuals. In the meantime, I would recommend that you select and be prepared to support some Liberal Candidate to fill my seat, in case the threat be carried into execution. For ten years one of your Representatives, the faithful expression of your desires and a diligent attention to the public interest, seemed the best way of shewing my sense of the honour you did me. But when addressing you on this occasion, my feelings lead me to state that, as I am conscious I have never violated the confidence you reposed in me, I am pleased by numberless circumstances, proving that your trust is undiminished. If you revise my procedure since I first entered the House, you will find that it has been chiefly directed towards an amelioration of the tenure of land, and the doing away with unnecessary public expenditure. In regard to the taxes really necessary for carrying on the Government, I have endeavoured to make a greater share fall upon property, especially on property held in large masses, that the luxuries used by the wealthy should be taxed more heavily—that the man owning 20,000 acres of land should pay more in support of roads than the man who only rents 100 acres. Many other minor reforms I attempted, I am sorry to say, with very little success. But you sent me to do my duty—you never reproached me that my well-meant efforts had been without effect. As to the testimonial which some of you were proposing, I request you will desist till you see how the Session shall terminate. You will then be better able to judge of the manner most suitable to express your sense of my public conduct. Before the General Election I trust to be with you, and to explain further should that be necessary. Yet more, if some profess to despise me because I think it my duty to carry into effect your views, you have made their impudence contemptible, because you have never refused to listen to my advice. Amongst many things which it seems desirable to say, the most important is—let no differences or religious matter divide you at the hustings. It may suit the purposes of some to set the Protestant against the Catholic, and the Catholic against the Protestant, and thus to attain their selfish ends. In more than one land that game (of ancient date) is still played by political sharpers—first divide, then conquer, then tyrannise. Your District has hitherto been exempt from such an unfortunate error. I request all Liberals of whatever persuasion, will continue to use their most strenuous efforts to prevent its occurrence. You know how the Liberal Members were painted by Sir Charles Fitz Roy in his Despatch, after the refusal of the £1,000. You have an idea what others have told in Britain—what such a man as Collard would write to pander to the malice and forward the political interest of some of his patrons, you may also conceive. Well, if this game be to go on, we shall see how the private character of Sir Charles and some twelve or fifteen others will look in print. But I would much rather that parties would consider that rudeness of language and wresting of law to suit their purposes, tend to render the Colony contemptible. We are too inconceivable to be able to afford to do wrong. Trusting yet to meet you, and con-

fidant that if my life endure for a few years, your good opinion will nullify any slander, and recompense me for any loss to which a faithful adherence to your interest may at present expose me.

I remain,

Your obliged and obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER RAE.

2d December, 1848.

MR. COLES'S RESIGNATION OF HIS SEAT IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—

I shall feel obliged by your inserting in the next No. of THE EXAMINER the following Correspondence, so as to prevent falsehood and misconception from taking possession of the public mind in reference to my resignation. I reply to His Excellency's Letter of yesterday's date only through the medium of your Paper.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

GEORGE COLES.

December 7, 1847.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 6TH DEC., 1848.

SIR,

At Your Excellency's request I waited upon you the day after the Writ was issued for the election of a member of the House of Assembly in the place of Edward Palmer, Esq., who had accepted the office of Solicitor General, when Your Excellency stated to me that if I opposed Mr. Palmer at that Election, or advocated Responsible Government, you would call upon Her Majesty's Minister to remove me from the Executive Council of this Island.

Ten days after this first interview I waited upon Your Excellency again at your own request, when you stated that if I persisted in opposing Mr. Palmer, you would suspend me without first communicating with the Home Government. And now, Sir, this is the ninth day since I proposed W. W. Lord, Esq., as the opponent of Mr. Palmer, and I have not yet received any notice of my suspension, but a notice to attend the monthly meeting of Council to-morrow. But, Sir, having lost my confidence in your Administration of the Government, and feeling that I could not continue to be a member of your Council with honour to myself and usefulness to Your Excellency, I therefore respectfully tender to you my resignation of my seat at that Council Board. And beg to remain,

Your Excellency's obedient servant.

GEORGE COLES.

To His Excellency Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 6th December, 1848.

SIR;

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, tendering your resignation of your seat in the Executive Council, which I shall transmit to Earl Grey with a recommendation that it may be accepted.

Your recollection of what passed at the two interviews mentioned in your letter, is so inaccurate, that I must be permitted to set you right in two material particulars. You say that I stated, 1st:—"That if you advocated Responsible Government, I would call upon Her Majesty's Ministers to remove you from the Executive Council;" and 2d, "That if you persisted in opposing Mr. Palmer, I would suspend you without first communicating with the Home Government." My recollection of what I said to you on these points is so clear and precise, that I regret to be compelled to give to both of these statements of yours the most explicit contradiction.

When you waited upon me by my request the day after the writ was issued for the election of a member for Charlottetown, I told you that having heard that you were canvassing for an opposition to Mr. Palmer, the object of my sending for you was to give you a friendly caution as to your proceedings. I explained to you that I had neither the right nor the desire to interfere in the slightest degree with you, either as a member of the House of Assembly or as an Elector, and that what I was about to say to you was solely in your capacity of Executive Councillor. I told you, that as a member of the Government, I expected that you would not oppose the election of the Solicitor General, who was again a candidate for the representation of Charlottetown. You replied that you did not consider that in opposing the Solicitor General you were opposing the Government. Although I could by no means agree with you in this doctrine, I did not argue the point with you, but proceeded to explain to you, in strict confidence as an Ex-

clusive Councillor, that I was in possession of a confidential Despatch from Earl Grey, in which his Lordship mentioned that he approved of my recommendation that Mr. Palmer should be reinstated in his seat in the Council—that I considered him as a member of the Government, and that it was impossible for me to admit the proposition that you, an Executive Councillor, could take an active part in opposition to him, and still retain your seat at the Council Board. I also, in strict confidence, and cautioning you to remember your oath of office, explained to you the views of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the introduction of the system commonly designated as that of Responsible Government into this Colony, as they had lately been communicated to me. I did not say one word as to you either supporting or opposing Responsible Government, nor did I give you the slightest reason to suppose that that subject had any reference whatever to your seat in the Council. You then told me that it was not settled whether there was to be an opposition to Mr. Palmer or not, but that if Mr. Lord offered himself as a candidate you would support him and oppose Mr. Palmer. I replied that I was sorry to hear you say so, for in that case I should, however reluctantly, feel it my duty to request you to resign your seat at the Board. You said that if I did so you would not resign, when I remarked that in that case I should have only one of two alternatives, either to suspend you or to recommend that Her Majesty should be pleased to dispense with your services. That I disliked the idea of suspending a Councillor for anything excepting dishonorable or immoral conduct, and that probably my course would be to recommend your removal.

At our second interview, I informed you that it was necessary that I should have some further conversation with you, and that I wished Mr. Haviland, the Colonial Secretary, to be present. Sending for that gentleman, I told him on his entrance that I had requested his presence to prevent any mistake as to what had passed or might now pass between you and myself. I then repeated to him the details of our first interview precisely as I have stated them in this letter. After which I turned to you and asked if what I had stated was correct, to which you replied in the affirmative. I then proceeded to explain to you that since our first interview, it had occurred to me upon further consideration, that it might become my positive duty to suspend you, and that my object in requesting you to come to me then, was to make you aware of this, mentioning at the same time, that I had not finally decided on the course I should take. I then requested to know if you had made up your mind as to the course you were to pursue. You replied that you had, and that you were determined to oppose the Solicitor General. In reply to this, I told you, that finding you, an Executive Councillor, in active opposition to another member of the Government, it was with much regret that I felt it my duty to request you to resign your seat. You replied that you refused to do so. You asked me if I required you to resign because you supported Mr. Lord? I replied, "No, it is because you oppose the Solicitor General." You then asked me if you were to consider yourself suspended? I replied, "Not at all. I would never think of suspending a Councillor without previously consulting his colleagues, and in your case I have not yet made up my mind on the subject."

This recapitulation of what passed at the two interviews mentioned in your letter, will, I hope, satisfy you that your recollection is inaccurate.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

DONALD CAMPBELL.

George Coles, Esq., &c. &c.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 7th Decr., 1848.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR DONALD CAMPBELL, BARONET, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN AND OVER HER MAJESTY'S ISLAND OF PRINCE EDWARD, &c. &c.

SIR—

I have the honour to acknowledge through the medium of the Press the receipt of your Letter of yesterday's date, in reply to the communication I had the honour to address your Excellency, tendering my resignation of my seat in Council.

You "regret to be compelled to give the most explicit contradiction to two statements" made by me, namely, that I was informed in my interviews with you that if I advocated Responsible Government you would call upon Her Majesty's Ministers to remove me from the Executive Council, and 2d, that if I persisted in opposing Mr. Palmer, you would suspend me without first communicating with the Home Government.

I am surprised that your Excellency should dispute my statements upon those two points, for the observations addressed to me by your Excellency upon both