

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA AND IN P. E. ISLAND.**

It is with sincere pleasure that we give on our first page some extracts from the speech of Sir John Harvey to the houses of Legislature in Nova Scotia, on the opening of their Session. On a perusal of these, it will be seen that Responsible Government is conceded by the wisdom of Her Majesty's Councils to the inhabitants of that Province. It appears from another extract that the Colonial Government is about to be reformed on this new principle. This is, indeed, a boon of the highest price; it has been already granted to the Canadians, and we are persuaded, nay, we know it will not long be withheld from ourselves. This only is wanting to complete the enjoyment of the British Constitution in its entire and efficient form, whilst its absence renders that Constitution nugatory and deficient in its very elements; for the Constitution of Great Britain is composed of ingredients and checks designed so to counterpoise each other, that it can hardly be said to exist at all where either estate of the realm falls short in its assigned authority and influence. Indeed, it may be well doubted whether a Colony under the British Crown, possessing a Legislature but not Responsible Government, is not in a worse condition than a Colony without a Legislature—governed by the representative of the Crown, aided by a Council. In the latter case, a just Administrator, and the fostering care of the paternal Government, may ensure to the people some of the advantages which result from being the subjects of a free Imperial Government.

The Crown has its duties and the people know on whom they depend, but of all forms of Government, that is the most irksome where a long standing monopoly, in the hands of a few fortunate yet selfish individuals, controls the patronage of the Crown, to the exclusion of every class of the people, except the passive tools of its own selection,—a state of things which is the natural growth of such a Legislature as ours, having the name of a British Parliament, but wanting the only essential which gives value to such a body, namely, the power of the people through their Representatives, of participating in the Government; nor is this a power at all approaching to Democracy, for to say nothing of the fact that experience and history contradict any such probability, how can it be apprehended when reference is had to the powers which the Constitution has placed in the Crown and in the hands of the Upper Branch of the Legislature.

It may suit the Monopolists and the Oligarchists to hold out this bugbear. It is but the dying effort—the fruitless manœuvre of a defeated party. But why should a principle so essential to our liberties be viewed as the material for a party contest; the stake is the stake of a whole people; and we trust the efforts to check our rising liberties, exhibited more or less by parties well known, in proportion as they dare betray their constituents, are well seen through and perfectly understood. The people know who are their friends—and are neither blind nor wanting in discrimination. If they are deficient in information, we refer them to the Journals of the Assembly, and the speakers of last Session. Let them look to it—the remedy is in their own hands; the matter cannot long be deferred, and those who stand in the way, and have stood in the way, must be got rid of at the next General Election. How those who at the last professed to be the friends of Responsible Government when they had obtained their seats, can never be forgotten. They are the same who would exclude Messrs. Coles and Warburton, because they have been selected by the people, and appointed by the late Lieutenant Governor to the Council, as a kind of first fruits of this system, which the Monopolists inwardly loath and cannot abide, and against which they have openly voted; and further, they would get rid of these men because they belong to a Party in both Branches of the Legislature which will bring to light all (to use mild terms) which requires reform in the administration of public affairs, and are ready to legislate and govern for the general interest, so distinguished from that of a few speculators. Our readers may rely on it, that Responsible Government is at hand—it is seen to be not only a gift of inestimable price to the Colonies, but one which can be safely conceded wherever the population is of British origin; but it is likewise recognised as the surest and safest bond of union between the Mother Country and her Dependencies.

It seems from the address of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia that there are actually arrangements to be made respecting the Civil List and some other matters which are deemed necessary conditions to the attainment of this high privilege. We know not whether this is to be demanded of a Colony with means so small as ours; but we deem no sacrifice too great to ensure the enjoyment of a privilege so essential to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of our Island home. It is very well to exclaim that this is a struggle of one party endeavouring to obtain the places of others who occupy them: Be it so; as we have often before said, the people will take care to continue and displace them or any others if they fail in the due administration of public affairs. It is the fashion amongst the Oligarchists to insult the rest of the public by saying that there are no other men fit to fill their offices. We do not recognise in them all the talent—all the fitness; no, nor all the trustworthiness which the Island affords or contains. But if it were so, free institutions have always been found to produce men fit for every exigency.

There are inherent in them a corrective and a creative principle adequate to the supply of men in every way calculated to contend with any possible emergency. Deny this opening to the people, and you may in vain look for statesmen.

**THE DEBATE ON PRIVILEGE.**

The House of Assembly has been chiefly occupied since the commencement of the Session in debating the question of Privilege, arising out of the acceptance of a seat in the Executive Council by the Hon. Mr. Coles, and that gentleman's subsequent election. The House has been very evenly divided on the question; so much so, that until Thursday, it was impossible to determine whether the issue of the question would be in favour of or against Mr. Coles; but on that day Mr. Nicholas Conroy signified his intention of voting with the party opposed to Mr. Coles—and by his vote the question was yesterday decided against that gentleman. We have not room to give the several Resolutions which were introduced on both sides, but shall give them in our next No. The upshot of the whole debate has been, that the Hon. Mr. Coles has been excluded from holding, for the present, a seat in the House of Assembly, on the interpretation by the House, of an Act of Parliament which the Law Officers of the Crown have declared to be inoperative in the case of Mr. Coles. And thus have a majority—a small one to be sure—decided contrary to all constitutional practice—contrary to what we deem to be a just and equitable interpretation of the law. Whether His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will issue a new Writ of Election for the seat thus declared vacant, remains to be seen. When His Excellency shall have come to a determination as to the course most proper to be pursued, we will be prepared to show the extraordinary position in which the opposing party have placed him. The opinions of the Crown Officers in reference to the Act 6th Will. 4th, cap. 24, are to be followed, or they are not to be followed. If the opinion of the Assembly is to prevail over them, we can't see what necessity the Representative of the Crown has for having legal advisers at all. It has been surmised, (and very generally too) that this decision will be the cause of a General Election. Although we would regret that the country should be put to the trouble and expense of such a measure, we would nevertheless be highly gratified to hail the consummation of an event which could not fail to bring about a better state of things, by bringing together a more truly liberal and independent body of men, who would legislate for the general interests of the country—and not be actuated by a desire to prop up a tottering Oligarchy. We candidly confess that we cannot trust ourselves to write upon the subject of this debate at any considerable length, because to discuss it in a proper manner would require a calmer spirit than we can now bring to its consideration. We may, however, be induced to make it the subject of some remarks in a future Paper. *En passant*, we cannot but observe, that we have heard many debates in Colonial Assemblies, but have never heard one which betrayed such paucity of argument—such startling disregard for all fairness, reason and right, as have been evident in the speeches of those hon. members who support the proposition adverse to the opinions of the Crown Officers.

**GREAT TRIUMPH OF LIBERAL PRINCIPLES.**

By our advices from Halifax, dated the 2d inst., we learn that the Liberals have engrossed the New Government; and that the following gentlemen have been sworn in as Executive Councillors, and to the offices set opposite to their names:

- The Hon. James B. Uniacke, Attorney General,
- The Hon. W. F. DesBarres, Solicitor General.
- The Hon. Joseph Howe, Provincial Secretary,
- The Hon. H. Huntington, } (for which two, the offices of the Excise and Treasury are reserved.)
- The Hon. James McNab,
- The Hon. Michael Tobin,
- The Hon. George R. Young,
- The Hon. Hugh Bell,
- The Hon. L. O'C. Doyle.

His Honor the Speaker, still retains the Chair. People of Prince Edward Island, behold the power placed in your hands, and in this Colonial struggle for liberty, follow the example of Nova Scotia, and govern yourselves accordingly.

**TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.**

We issue this week, and shall probably be obliged to do so for one or two weeks to come, one instead of two sheets. This we are constrained to do, in consequence of a disappointment in the procuring of our printing paper, which was to be brought from Halifax by one of the two vessels now laid up there belonging to this Island, but which, owing to the lateness of the season when they were discharged, could not make their return home. This being the case, we directed our agent in Halifax, to forward the Paper by the land route as far as Cape Tormentine, from which it would be brought by the Ice Boat in convenient packages. But we regret to say, the difficulty experienced in travelling, by the bad state of the roads, has prevented it as yet being brought further than Amherst; and hence our is-

uing a single sheet only. Although we will be bound to sustain considerable loss and expense by this disappointment; first, by limiting the circulation of our paper to the present number of subscribers; secondly, by procuring sufficient paper to last until the navigation be resumed, over a long and expensive land route; and thirdly, by the omission of a great portion of our advertisements;—yet our subscribers will not sustain any very material loss, for we shall give them the full complement of pages (416) before the year will have expired—and besides, it will be remembered, there will be nearly as much reading matter of engrossing interest in the present single sheet, (for the matter will be more compressed) as there would be in the double sheets, where seven or eight columns would be devoted to literary selections and advertisements.

**MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE.**

The Rev. Mr. Rhand delivered an interesting practical Lecture on Monday night week, on the subject—"The advantages and disadvantages of self education." On Monday night last, Mr. Gainsford delivered the first of a series of lectures to be given by him on Natural Philosophy. Both lecturers drew large audiences, and gave very general satisfaction.

**ENGLISH MAIL.**

The Courier brought the English Mail last evening. The latest dates are to the 15th January. Commercial failures continued to take place in England, but Scotland has been particularly unfortunate as respects this matter, since the last Mail, several very extensive houses having been compelled to yield to the pressure of the times. From Ireland the accounts were not so gloomy a character,—the Coercion Bill has been put in vigorous operation, and comparative tranquillity prevailed. Amongst the foreign news, we notice that some disturbance had taken place in Rome, in consequence of a refusal by His Holiness the Pope to accede to some extravagant demand for reforms.—Abdel Kader, it is reported, had surrendered to the French, on the condition of his being permitted to return to Palestine or Egypt.

**BIRTHS.**

At Lot 11, on the 24th ult., the Lady of the Hon. James Warburton, of a daughter.  
At Souris, on the 26th ult., Lady of John Macgowan, Esq., of a daughter.

**MARRIED.**

At Three Rivers, on the 27th January, by William Mackay, Esq., J. P., Mr. Donald McQuarry, Merchant, Georgetown, to Jessie, second daughter of Mr. Donald Stewart, Montague.  
At Souris, on the 25th ult., by W. S. Macgowan, Esq., Mr. Thomas Mallard, to Mrs. Perkins, widow of the late Mr. Thomas Perkins.

**DIED.**

At St. Peter's Bay, on the 23rd ult., Euphemia, third daughter of Mr. Philip McIssac, aged 19 years, much regretted by her friends and acquaintances.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, Tuesday, February 1st, 1848.**

**RESOLVED**, That the following standing order of this House, be inserted three times in each of the Newspapers published in Charlottetown, for the information of the public.

CHARLES DESBRISAY, D. C. L. C.

"That no Bill, Resolution, or other proceeding, founded upon any application, addressed to the House of Assembly, be sustained by the Council, unless application to the same effect, with such documents as may accompany the same, be also presented to the Council in General Assembly."

**IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Friday, February 4th, 1848.**

**RESOLVED**, That no Petition praying aid for Roads, Bridges or Wharfs, or for any object of a local or private nature, be received after MONDAY the TWENTY-EIGHT of FEBRUARY, instant.

**ORDERED**, That the above Resolution be inserted in each of the Newspapers published in Charlottetown.  
JOHN MACNEILL, C. A. H. A.

**MUTUAL INSURANCE AGAINST FIRE!! NOTICE.**

**THE COMPANY** now being about to be formed, a MEETING will take place at the MASONIC HALL, on Wednesday next, the 9th inst. Chair taken precisely at 8, P. M.

(By request,) JAMES N. HARRIS, Secretary, pro. tem.

Feb. 5.

**TO LET**

**FOR Two Years** from the First of NOVEMBER last, SPRING PARK HOUSE, Outhouses and Garden. Also, the Farm, mostly in grass, which will be divided into lots to meet the wishes of parties desirous of renting small tenures. Apply at the office of the Hon. W. W. IRVING, Charlottetown, 5th Feb. 1848. Gaz. 2w

**STRAY HEIFER.**

**A STRAY HEIFER** has been on the premises of the Subscriber since July last, she is black, with white back.

MARY COBBS.

Union Road, Lot 33, Feb. 5, 1848.

**STRAY SHEEP.**

**A STRAY SHEEP (Ewe)** has been on the premises of the Subscriber since October last. Both ears are marked—top off the right, and a piece off the left ear.

JOHN WALSH.

Covehead Road, Feb. 6th, 1848.