

The Examiner.

AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

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

New Series.

CHARLOTTETOWN, JULY 10, 1850.

Vol. 1: No. 46

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1850.

TOWN GOSSIP.

TAKE the hearts of our adversaries are easily made glad, if we may judge from the joyful smiles they put on, when, on the arrival of every Packet from England, they learn that His Excellency's Mail Bag contains some balm for their wounded feelings—that, in short, it cannot be found that Lord Grey has yet positively commanded the immediate introduction of Responsible Government. They are mournfully convinced that the dreadful fiat must come forth—that it is delayed only because the functionaries in Downing street have not had time to grope through the mass of falsehood and misrepresentation, with which no doubt they have been most industriously plied since the prorogation of the Legislature. This conviction is constantly giving rise to the gloomiest thoughts; and is it remarkable to see men gloomy at the doleful prospect of losing comfortable situations on which they have lived sumptuously for years, deriving therefrom a certain degree of importance which their lineage, hereditary fortunes, education and mental endowments could never bestow? In this state of mental depression, it is natural their spirits should become singularly buoyant with the faintest ray of hope. When despair sits heavily and darkly upon the heart, it is then the most accessible to every transient glimmer of joy.

Friday last afforded a graphic illustration of this state of feeling. The Mail of the preceding evening brought Government Despatches. A Council was summoned at eight o'clock that evening. The messenger was instructed to inform the Councillors respectively, that the Despatches were of the most favorable character—favorable, of course, to the party in power. Early on Friday groups of Tories—dressed in their holiday smiles and clothes—might be seen in every part of the town, discussing and promulgating the important secrets of the Cabinet. They all agreed in asseverating that poor Responsible Government was knocked in the head—that Sir Donald's conduct was not only approved of, but eulogized in the highest terms—that the only ground of complaint against him at the Colonial Office was, his neglecting to liberate the prisoners in the several Jails when the House of Assembly declined to vote the necessary Supplies for their support—that if the House of Assembly should persist in its "obstinate" courses, the Government would be immediately abolished, and the Colony annexed to Nova Scotia—that the House of Commons refused to receive the Petition adopted by the Assembly here, and entrusted for presentation to the Society for the Reform of Colonial Government—that the complaints of the Petitioners were treated with scorn by the House of Commons—and that it was the will and pleasure of Her Majesty's Ministers that the glorious reign of the Family Compact should continue undisturbed unto the latest generation. All this stuff and much more kept the jaws of Tory gossips employed during the five-long day.

Saturday came. Tory countenances put on their lately more accustomed gloom. What was the cause of the sudden transition? Had any one, versed in the secrets of the Cabinet Council, revealed the truth of the Despatches, and disturbed the delicious dream of the Tories? The delusions of the day before, each in its turn, assumed the form of a myth. The story of the prisoners was nearly the first to vanish. The Court, then sitting, sentenced several unfortunate devils, who had been lately tried and convicted of crime, to various terms of imprisonment. Every body asked, why was judgment pronounced, if the prison establishments were

to be broken up, and felons to go free? Why were the Courts of Justice kept open, why, in short, were any of the public departments—any of the public offices kept open, if the "occupation" of the Jailor—the great conservator in every state of life, property, and peace—was, like Othello's, "gone"? It was a silly tale, and demonstrated the most absolute poverty of invention on the part of its originators. Then the story about the rejection of the Petition was demolished by the publication of Mr. Adderley's letter; and it was admitted, that though the Lieutenant Governor's conduct was approved of in the main, Responsible Government was either at once conceded by the Despatches, or about to be so. Our own opinion was, that a Despatch was left lurking in the bottom of the Governor's bag, signifying Her Majesty's assent to the Civil List Bill, and that its existence was lost sight of, while the admirers of His Excellency swaggered under the delirium of joy produced by the alleged approbatory Despatch. Time will tell whether we were right or wrong in forming this opinion. If the Government organ is as silent on the subject of the Despatches as the *Islander* of Friday was, we will feel tolerably certain that a complete blight has fallen on the hopes of the Compact and their cads.

We freely confess that we have never been particularly uneasy respecting the issue of the contest between the Government and the Assembly. We felt and feel that the issue may be delayed for months—that attempts would be made to hoodwink and cajole the Home Government; but that the Reform for which we struggled was as sure to come as death and taxes. An election might be resorted to;—such an arbitrary proceeding would make matters worse for the Compact rather than better. The country has not been lied into the belief, through the agency of Maclean, or any other unprincipled scribe, that it is not fit to enjoy Responsible Government—that such a polity would prove inimical to its interests—or that the present officials are the most pure and trustworthy of men. The decision of the constituency of Belfast has shewn what little effect misrepresentation has had amongst them. Other constituencies would pronounce still more decisively, were they appealed to for a decision. Then we would be annexed to Nova Scotia! Aye, that hoax has been tried for about forty years, and is by this time pretty well worn out. But suppose annexation were to become a fact, would not such an event be a triumph to the Reform party? We would thereby get rid of the incubus of a clique, and enjoy all the advantages of Responsible Government. We are not frightened of annexation; but if Her Majesty and her Ministers were to falsify their promises to this Island, and to tell us that if we did not content ourselves with being the slaves of a faction here, we should be annexed to the other Province, we would cheerfully embrace the alternative, and would be certain of seeing the majority of our fellow colonists following our example.

MR. DOUSE'S LETTER.

We were considerably edified by the perusal of a letter signed "William Douse," published in the last *Islander*. We were edified, because it is new and curious to see a philosopher like "Wullam" in the towering passion which every sentence of his letter betrays. He is indignant, horribly indignant at the assertion made by the *Examiner* and *Review*, namely, that he is indebted for his late election to his position and influence as a land-agent. He gives the assertions "the most unqualified lie" in vulgar terms, not to be misunderstood. Nobody is likely to dispute Wullam's aptitude for the use of "vulgar terms." We should be surprised to hear of anything else but vulgarity from a person who has had such little opportunity or inclination to cultivate

the habits and feelings of the Gentleman. Mr. Douse ceases to be interesting when he ceases to be vulgar, for he would then be assuming a character which he could not long sustain: he would be destroying his identity, and rendering it difficult for himself or his friends to recognize him. We pray him, therefore, to be always "vulgar;" affectation in manners is no less disagreeable and disgusting than hypocrisy in religion.

He informs us that he was "neither anxious nor foolishly ambitious to take a seat with the materials that now form the majority of the present House of Assembly." Why did he go to the trouble of contesting the election? Did he imagine that the electors of Belfast could not dispense with his valuable services? that they were determined on electing him, whether he was willing or no? that the business of the country would infallibly go to smash if he retired into private life, and ceased to electrify and charm the Legislative hall by his classic oratory, his deep erudition, his acute ratiocination. Say, O modest and patriotic Wullam! how can thy adopted country be ever sufficiently grateful for thy disinterested devotion to her interests? He esteems it no honour to "take a seat with the materials," (such are his correct and classic expressions) "who now form the majority of the Assembly." The "materials" are not ambitious of the honour of having Mr. Douse amongst them; they beg he will keep at a respectful distance when he goes into the house of Assembly; for there is an odour—(we speak metaphorically and politically) about plethoric Tories not enchantingly agreeable. "I never canvassed the Electors upon the occasion," he observes. What occasion? We don't suppose he canvassed the electors on the "occasion" of the election. But did he not "do the agreeable," shortly previous to the election, by sending parcels of turnip seed in various directions of the district, as payment in hands for the votes to be registered in his favour on the polling day? And did he not give Professor Numskull a lift (but he admits the fact) by sending bundles of the *Express* (not half so valuable as the turnip seed) amongst the electors, "as indisputable evidence" that the majority of the Assembly are a pack of rascals, with whom, nevertheless, he was desirous of associating, and that Maclean and himself are the most immaculate patriots? (When a very ignorant man writes letters in the newspapers, it is fair to give him a wide berth, and to avoid, if possible, laughing at his use of expressions whose meaning he does not understand; we shall therefore, let the "indisputable evidence" pass.) And did he not disparage some of the majority, and thus by comparison praise himself and his party? And did he not rant and rail against the proceedings of the late Sessions, and thus by comparison lead the electors to imagine what great things he and his party would accomplish for the country, if they were in a majority? He admits it all,—and yet he has the incomparable impudence to tell the public he did not canvass! If this is not canvassing on an extensive scale, we must confess that we know nothing of electioneering tactics.

There is a good deal of slang in the letter of "our Wullam" about "penny-less members," "Snatchers," and persons in the Assembly intent upon nothing but serving "their own dear selves." Now, though "our Wullam" may have been born a genius and a philosopher, he was not born a very rich man, nor a very scrupulous one in the means resorted to for acquiring riches. We are not aware that any of the majority—pennyless as some of them are alleged to be—ever had to work as a day labourer in a garden or a cook in a ship-yard—we have never known that any of them has sought, and been refused, to be admitted as a servant to the House of Assembly—we are not aware that any of them has ever flourished the white apron as an obsequious Boniface at a public inn—we are not aware that any of them has snatched to himself from another, by the force of misrepresentation and impudence, the management of an estate—we are not aware that two hundred pounds annually for the management of an estate has enabled any of them to build ships, acquire real estate, support large families, and make expensive journeys to England,—we are not aware that any of them has trafficked in timber not their own,—we are not aware that any of them has changed sides in the House of Assembly—suddenly professed principles to which their whole previous course of conduct was opposed, for the purpose of gaining the support of their former opponents in the scheme of making a Chancery officer disgorge three hundred and fifty pounds, praising those opponents, for that same support, as the honestest party in the Assembly, and afterwards abusing them as Snatchers, restless, pennyless agitators. We repeat, we are not aware that any of these things can be said of any one member of