

# The Examiner.

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

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## SPIRIT OF THE COLONIAL PRESS.

[From the Halifax Sun.]

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AFFAIRS. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Political affairs in the Island Colony have, of late, been assuming an unwonted degree of importance—not exactly in consideration of the *magnitude* of the interests at stake, but rather of the *principles* involved in the issue joined by Sir Henry Vere Huntly and the People, on the one side, and the Tory faction on the other.

Neither leisure nor space will permit of our detailing at length the causes which appear to have arrayed a little knot of *influential* officials in such uncompromising hostility to the Lieut. Governor. However, our readers may pretty nearly *guess* the general complexion of those "grounds and rocks of offence," when we tell them that Sir Vere Huntley had the *audacity* to question the supremacy of "a clique," and a knot of "*functionaries*," as the London Times would say; and that with a spirit which does him infinite honour, and marks him worthy of a position rather more influential and important than that of Head of the Executive of a petty Colony.—The Lieut. Governor of Prince Edward Island had the manliness to avow his approval of the system "usually called the Responsible system" of Colonial Government; possibly, too, he hinted at an intention to apply the "Russell purge" to certain offices "within the sphere of his administration." However, a certain Mr. Palmer\*, as would appear, the *Mercutius* of the clique, was delegated to the Colonial Office, post-haste, "to procure (as the most speedy method of averting the storm,) his Excellency's removal from the Colony." The said M. P. at the same time refusing to tender the resignation of his seat at the Board of Executive Council—"unaccompanied" as Earl Grey expresses it in his despatch, "by a *condition*." But the M. P. and his employers seem to have reckoned without their host, for Earl Grey, with promptness and decision, appears to have met the approach of the delegate with a signal and humiliating rebuff, quietly informing the gentleman that he had come home on a fool's errand—that Sir Vere Huntley's recall had *already* been decided on—and "without any reference to or knowledge of the charges preferred against his Excellency in the petition of Mr. Palmer's employers"—and more, "that the contemplated step was not, in any degree, dependant on, and could not in any degree, be effected either by the proof or refutation of those charges"—(Earl Grey's Des., 28th Sept. 1847). All which must, of course, have proven entirely satisfactory to Sir Vere Huntley and the popular party, his supporters—and matter of bitter shame and confusion of face to the faction; and more especially so, inasmuch as Mr. Palmer's supporters had sought to make the "recall" appear the effect of his delegation, and the influence exercised by his employers.

Now, had the only effect of this "Hurricane in Lilliput," been the discomfiture of the petty tyrants who have so long *mis-ruled* a portion of our fellow colonists—we should have made it matter of special gratulation and rejoicing—but turning to the Despatch of Earl Grey, in reply to a communication from Sir Vere Huntley, (13th July) "on the subject of certain complaints made by the Hon. Mr. Coles, respecting the intervention of certain officials as his opponents at his election to a seat in the General Assembly," we find a passage, which, as we read it, conveys an admission of the practicability of establishing in the three Continental Colonies, that system of constitutional government, on the broadest basis, for which the Liberal party are contending. Indeed, Lord Grey does not appear to apprehend any very serious difficulty to impede its introduction even into the miniature government of the Island Colony—were but "provision made for defraying the

annual charge of the Civil List." However—the subject has already grown upon us, nearly beyond our available space—and so we must needs clip the important communication alluded to, and, quoting the passage from which we have deduced our own conclusions, leave our readers to judge for themselves.

Out upon the turpitude and grovelling meanness of the faction, whose successful juggling has caused a valuable little Colony, not yet in its prime, to put on all the senility and decrepitude of old age:—

"I think it right to observe, that the question incidentally raised by Mr. Coles, respecting the introduction of what is usually termed the system of Responsible Government into Prince Edward Island, must rest upon grounds and be affected by considerations there, which are not applicable to that question in reference to the adjacent British Provinces. Thus, especially, it must be borne in mind, that the Legislature of Prince Edward Island have not, hitherto, made provision for defraying the annual charge of its Government, as is the case in every Province in which that system has hitherto been introduced. I do not at present undertake to say what influence these circumstances ought to have upon the question of the proposed change of system. I notice them only as circumstances which it would be impossible to overlook before proceeding to establish or to sanction such a change."

At no period, then, of the political history of the North American Dependencies of England, did there exist greater reason for watchfulness and decision of action upon the part of the Liberals than at this moment. *The iron should not be allowed to cool—the Constitutionalists should strike whilst it is hot—STRIKE STEADILY AND DELIBERATELY.* The eyes of the other Colonies are anxiously bent towards this Province. Let no silly effeminate fear of being thought hasty, or rash, or factious—no listening to the voice of either cloth, or flattery, or cant, turn the leading men of the Party from their honest and avowed purpose.

Let the Leader of the opposition that *was*—the Leader of the Government that *must* and soon *will* be—prove as civil and refined as he please in the drawing rooms, still he knows full well that *he has a solemn duty to perform, and a Country looking on.*

[From the Toronto Globe.]

### ORANGE ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA.

As the Province advances in light and intelligence, the disposition to rally under Orange Colours appears to be on the decline. Many good and peaceable men who had been filled with apprehension of injury from their Roman Catholic fellow subjects are now convinced of their error, and that they have been made the tools of a few designing leaders, who have no other objects but the promotion of their own interested or ambitious views. The machinations of these designing men are not yet laid aside, and we observed with sincere regret, that a dinner party of Orangemen was lately assembled at Toronto, evidently to arouse the latent feeling of those who had been deluded to join their ranks. That they have succeeded, or can now succeed, to any considerable extent, it is impossible to believe.

We all know the origin of Orange Lodges; that they were regarded as Associations in Ireland for protecting the Protestants against the Roman Catholics, from whom they apprehended danger, as the most numerous body. This was the ostensible reason—but it is also known that Orange Associations were used as the tools of a corrupt Government, in whose hands the whole power and patronage of the Crown was placed. Of the manner in which that power was used, the modern history of Ireland bears ample testimony. When the British Government began to open their eyes in regard to doing equal justice to all classes of the people, they abolished all such institutions as tended to cherish strife and animosity, and Orange Lodges, having secret oaths, were held to be unlawful, and they fell with the rest by authority of Parliament. This great step towards the peace of Ireland

was one of the legitimate consequences of Parliamentary Reform.

Who could have dreamt that such institutions would find their way across the Atlantic, and that Orange Lodges would have a place and a voice in British America? The purposes which they have been made to subserve in Canada, are still more remarkable and unaccountable, than the fact of their establishment. Orangemen have always professed to espouse the principles of the Prince of Orange, whose mission to Great Britain recognized the right of the people to change their rulers. Orangemen in Canada have been converted by their leaders into the tools of every unjust and tyrannical Government with which Canada has been afflicted. Nothing can be more absurd than for a set of Orangemen to abuse every liberal principle, and swear fealty to every despotic Ministry, to whose chariot their leaders are pleased to attach them. At the late Toronto demonstration, it was openly avowed that Orangemen were to be used as they hitherto had been, on the side of a Tory Administration, universally despised for its incapacity and mismanagement. Many who are not under the influence of the *clique* are opening wide their eyes, and in astonishment, that they have been so long misled. They find that their Roman Catholic fellow subjects seek no superiority over their neighbours, and molest them in no respect, and having found no opposition, their ill-will is gradually being converted into esteem and attachment. As these feelings become more strong and more general, which they must do, Orangeism must *die the death*, and with it, the political life of its unprincipled leaders. The extensive organization of Orange Lodges has produced no opposing Societies. Those who would in former times have met them with stern hostility now rest their sole confidence in the laws of their country, and even look on with good humour, when memorials of past events of an unpleasant kind were thrust upon them in open day.

We believe sincerely that this is the true remedy for such painful feuds, and that the days for quarrelling on such grounds are numbered. Of all things in the world, the most ridiculous is for men to band themselves in the name of the Prince of Orange, for the support of arbitrary Tory government. Let them never do so in that name—let them call themselves *Jacobites* at once. Do we wish to discourage jealousy of constitutional rights? Far from it—we would have every man watch over the rights of which he is for a short time a custodian, that they may not suffer while in his possession, and from whatever quarter danger arises, let him bear his part in resisting it by the free exercise of his rights as a British subject. To do this, Orange Associations are not wanted, and so far as they now exist, they are exercised for purposes hostile to freedom, and to equal rights. Occasions enough occur where those who hold the principles of the revolution settlement may bring them into ample exercise. When the High Church party wish to steal King's College from the youth of Canada, and to take the largest share to themselves—when the Methodist leaders eagerly enter into the nefarious operation, and when the leaders of other sects who are to share the spoil stand by, then should an admirer of King William step in and raise his voice against the unhallowed combination.—To be on the opposite side of the question is the very height of absurdity. Every sentiment uttered by the Liberal party in the Provincial Parliament, every word which is uttered in behalf of ministerial responsibility, every measure which maintains the entire equality of rights, is founded on the great principles of the revolution settlement. The men of that day, it is true, did not admit the full right to others, which they claimed for themselves, but a century and a half cannot, have not passed in vain, and an admirer of William the Third will not do full justice to his memory, until he learn to maintain, not his own rights alone, but those of every class of his fellow subjects.

\* Our cotemporary seems to have forgotten that Mr. Pope was employed in conjunction with Mr. Palmer on the Mission referred to.—E.D. Ex.