

# The Examiner.

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

Vol. I.]

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1847.

[No. 2.

## RANDOM REFLECTIONS ON LOCAL POLITICS.—No. II.

### CAUSES OF THE ENMITY DISPLAYED TOWARDS SIR HENRY VERE HUNTLEY BY THE OFFICIAL OR FAMILY COMPACT PARTY.

I. *Departmental Investigations.*—Sir Henry's expressed and well known determination to cause strict investigation to be made into the official management of the business of every public department in the Colony, respecting which it should appear that any suspicion of irregularity or impropriety existed in the minds of the public.

II. *Treasury Investigations.*—His Excellency's having appointed a Commission with instructions, minutely to inquire into, investigate, and report on the mode of conducting business in the Treasury Office: His Excellency's reason for so doing being a suspicion very generally entertained, that there was, in secret operation, a system of illegal and fraudulent jobbing in Treasury Warrants, which had been paid into the Treasury, and which, consequently, ought to have been cancelled by the Treasurer. If reference be had to the report of the Commissioners, it will be seen how well founded was this suspicion. The reforms which have been effected in this Department—the evils which have been arrested—and the benefits which have accrued to the country in consequence of this investigation, are so well and so generally known, that they do not, at this time, require to be enlarged upon.

III. *Peremptory Instructions to the Treasurer.*—His Excellency's having issued positive instructions to the Treasurer, to comply with the Act of Assembly, which directs the placing of all Bonds in the hands of the Attorney General for recovery, three months after their becoming due, instead of allowing them to remain unpaid for any indefinite period beyond the time prescribed by law, at the will and pleasure of the Treasurer. These Instructions of His Excellency were issued, in consequence of its appearing by the Report of the Treasury Commissioners, that the Treasurer, notwithstanding his liability to the penalty of Fifty Pounds for every such neglect or breach of law, had suffered himself to be seduced thereto, if not repeatedly, certainly at least more than once; as witness the case of one of his securities, and of that of his brother-in-law, whose Bonds, to the amount of several hundreds of pounds, had been allowed to remain unpaid for two or three years after they had become due.

IV. *Establishment of Quarterly Audits and Monthly Returns.*—The enforcement by His Excellency of quarterly Audits, (a practice which formerly existed, but which had been discontinued for some years), and the requirement of a monthly return of all moneys in the Treasurer's hands to the Lieutenant Governor. These precautionary regulations were re-established or made, in consequence of the above named discovery.

V. *Prohibition of Trafficking with Public Moneys.*—In the prosecution of their especial duty, the said Commission also discovered that it had been the practice of the Deputy Post Master General, and of certain of the Sub-Collectors of Impost Duties, to purchase Treasury Warrants, with the monies paid into their hands on account of the Government; and, in consequence of such discovery, the apparent traffic has been put an end to.

VI. *Requirement from, and Restraint imposed upon the Road Correspondent, &c.*—The Road Correspondent has been called upon to give security, as other officials do, for the Government monies which pass through his hands; and he is also required to furnish a monthly account to the Governor and Council, of his transactions with the Road Money, and prohibited from procuring the endorsement of Warrants, for interest, until their amounts shall absolutely be required for the payment of road-work performed; any such work being now paid for either in cash or by Warrant. Such Warrants

are now in demand; and cash is readily given for them by persons anxious to place out their money in good security. This, certainly, was not the case two or three years ago; and the difficulty of procuring cash for such Warrants, experienced by the individuals to whom they had been issued, was felt to be a very great grievance. The interference of His Excellency as respects this matter, has, however, gradually brought about a reform, and greatly diminished the traffic formerly carried on by certain of the Compact Party, who were in the habit of jobbing in these Road Warrants, greatly to their own benefit, in consequence of their charging a large premium or discount for the cashing thereof. The commencement of this reform may be dated from the time that the much-famed Joseph Pope found it impracticable any longer to pour his pernicious counsels into the ears of His Excellency; and the reform being now complete, Road Warrants are in demand at par. Since the evil ascendancy of that Haman-like Executive Councillor has, happily, been utterly destroyed, our annual expenditure has fallen two or three thousand pounds below our revenue. Besides, since the political downfall of Dictator Joseph, there has, also, been a large increase in the revenue; although, in his singular Resignation Letter, he has striven to make the Home Government believe that our trade is on the decline. His own trade, surely, he must have meant; for that, no one can dispute, has been upon the decline indeed, ever since his retirement from the Council.

The following paragraph from the *Royal Gazette*, of last week, fully confirms our statement, and shows a prodigious increase in the commercial prosperity of the country:

"REVENUE.—It is with much gratification that we announce to our Readers, the following increase in the Revenue.—The amount paid into the Public Treasury being the receipts at the Impost Office in Charlottetown for the Quarter ending the 30th June 1847, is

	£5274 10 10
Do. for the corresponding Quarter ending 1846, was	£3254 3 4
Showing an increase in favour of this year of	£2020 7 5

VII. *Glebe Land Fund.*—The rather occult question, touching the appropriation and "the whereabouts" of the Glebe Land Fund, has not yet been solved to the satisfaction of Sir Henry; but, by his determined investigation, we have no doubt it will be fully answered to the great satisfaction of His Excellency, and, doubtless, to the still greater gratification of the Compact Party.

VIII. *Disallowance of Pluralities of Offices.*—His Excellency's giving no countenance to the holding of a Plurality of Offices; but, on the contrary, firmly preventing it, whenever it comes within the scope of his power so to do; and, thereby debarring the Family Compact from the enjoyment of some of those dainty little pickings and sweet *entre-mets*, to which they had so long been accustomed to consider themselves exclusively entitled. His Excellency's opinion relatively to Pluralities was evidenced when Mr. George Wright made application for the situation of Surveyor General, holding, at that time, the appointment of Usher of the Black Rod. His Excellency, as a preliminary, requested Mr. Wright to give up his Ushership. With His Excellency's request Mr. Wright thought it prudent to comply; and, on the application of Mr. Henry Palmer, for the appointment so vacated, it was bestowed upon him.

*Incidental Reflections.*—That some men are incapable of gratitude is well known; yet every man, as respects himself, denies the charge: and, although the two gentlemen just above-named have had substantial favours conferred upon them by Sir Henry, and now openly stand arrayed against him, in the ranks of the Family Compact Party; yet would neither of them—for they are "honourable men"—submit to confess himself guilty of ingratitude to their benefactor.

In connection with this reflection, may be named another gentleman, whose *gratitude* to Sir Henry has been more conspicuously manifested, (as there was greater reason it should be,) than that of either Mr. Wright or Mr. Palmer.

It appears that, at the time of the dismissal of the late Post Master, and when it became necessary to appoint a successor to him in office, Sir Henry was aware that a certain individual with a large family, had experienced some very serious reverses of fortune, and was then in somewhat limited circumstances. Moved by a consideration of these circumstances, and actuated also, as there can be no doubt he was, by his favourable estimation of that individual's character, his Excellency generously recommended him, as, in all respects, qualified to fill the vacant situation; and he was appointed accordingly.

What renders this act of generosity, on the part of His Excellency, so worthy of a grateful return, is that an exertion of his interest, on behalf of the gentleman for whom it was so happily employed, had not been solicited, either by that gentleman himself or any other.

The appointment, it is true, was generally attributed to the influence of the Family Compact; as it was well known the fortunate individual was an old and useful friend of theirs. This fact, however, the Family Compact appear to have forgotten or overlooked; (although applied to by Mr. Page to recommend one of their friends,) probably whilst considering whom amongst the young and hungry expectants of some distant branch of their wide spread connections, they could, with the greatest decency, thrust into the vacant office; which might be as a stepping-stone to him for future promotion.

That this gentleman should be so firmly attached to those who forgot his services when they might have requited them; and so imbittered and inimical towards him, who remembered his misfortunes, to mitigate them, must certainly, to the common observer, appear quite enigmatical.

The solution of the enigma will, however, by some observers, be accomplished; or, at least, shrewdly guessed at. Such may, perhaps say, the gentleman found the obligation too great, or too heavy for his strength to bear, and therefore cast it aside; or—remembering that, as in some natures, a slight or unintentional injury will quite obliterate the grateful remembrance of the greatest benefit—they may be inclined to ask him, whether his interest received so deep a stab from the annihilation of the traffick in Treasury Warrants, that his consequent wrath and indignation quite extinguished the little gratitude which, till then, had feebly shed abroad its warmth in his bosom, and proved to him how greatly it would tend to the recruiting of his wounded interest, to strengthen the ranks of his forgetful friends, and fight with them against his most generous benefactor?

But ingratitude has not been manifested towards Sir Henry by the two individuals only above reflected upon. It has been, unblushingly, exhibited towards him by every individual of the Family Compact Party; and now that they have unitedly set themselves in battle array against him, and may require a distinguishing uniform and an appropriate name, let them, for the one, assume the dark hue of *base ingratitude*; and, for the other, most appropriately, (according to the literal meaning of the words,) designate themselves THE BLACK WATCH; \* for a *Black Watch* indeed, it may truly be

\* It ought, surely, to be unnecessary to add, that, in bestowing the appellation of BLACK WATCH, upon the Family Compact Party, there is not the most remote intention of making any disrespectful allusion to the gallant 42nd or Black Watch; of whom, with justice, it may be said, they were LES PLUS BRAVES PARMILLES BRAVES. With the most heroic and undaunted bravery, they fought and bled for their country's cause; and, for her weal, and her enemies' overthrow, were ever on THE WATCH. A very different spirit, a very different conduct—in fact, the very reverse—have marked the career of the Family Compact, from their very nucleus state, to this present moment of their vast and overgrown, but, happily, expiring power. Like Napoleon, they are now in Russia, defying the Autocrat; and, like Napoleon, they will soon be in Elba, or a more straitened domain.