

do not make square joints and level beds. The angles are not properly bonded; the majority of them are not. Bonds should be of proper length, and overlapped not less than nine inches. I find some of the angles without any bonds. I find some bonds not resting on solid stone, but on small stones. It is not usual to use as levelers in a wall soft sandstone in the foundation a large building. I find such stone has been generally used in this building. I opened the wall in different places on the inside; I found that the packing was not mechanically done, portions of it were dry and without mortar.

Again Mr. Samuel Rodd, a stone mason of 56 years experience, says:—

"I do not consider the stone such as called for in the specification. The best stone we found were not better than second quality; there were few of them; some were a black, rotten sand; others were what is known as kiel, hardened; I would not use them in an ordinary building. The best stone used in the building do not compare at all with those used in the railway machine shop."

Again, a man after the Hon. Leader of the Government's own heart, Mr. G. C. Cunningham, C. E., declares:—

"I do not know of such stone as the Asylum stone being used in any building here. I would not use all such stone for the collar wall of any good dwelling house or other building."

Further on Mr. Cunningham says:—  
"The frost would injure green mortar, but we examined work done in July last, and found all about the same; that is from the time the work was commenced."

Mr. Cunningham continues:—  
"We found some of the wall of the east end hollow—the packing was dry; I mean by hollow, without mortar."

With reference to the foundation, Mr. Cunningham says:—

"We dug two holes down to the footing; they were 20 inches deep from the natural surface line; I don't think 20 inches deep enough; the earth appeared solid; I would not risk the building on a foundation at this depth."

Regarding the walls, Mr. Cunningham says:—

"We opened the wall; we could put our hands in and pull out the packing; it was dry for want of mortar."

Again, he says:—

"Apart from the mortar, taking into consideration the number of small stone and levelers, it is not such a wall as I would approve of."

These are the deliberate statements of Mr. Cunningham; and yet the Hon. Leader of the Government charged him (Mr. Campbell) with "gross exaggeration." And is it not an extraordinary thing that the Government Engineer never saw or examined the Asylum foundation—never sent out there by the Government—until after the Committee? Leaving the matter of the Asylum, Mr. Campbell contended that the Assessment Act could have been done without, for five years at least. He also contended for a fair share of the Fishery Award. He believed that the money due by tenants for public lands could be collected through the Provincial Secretary and Treasurer's office—costing about 5 per cent. instead of 25 per cent. as at present. He thought it a cowardly act to attack the Press, who were unable to defend themselves on the floor of the House. He advocated the abolition of imprisonment for debt, and the amalgamation of the Normal School, in 1877. He advocated it. The gentleman at the head of the college is in every way able to fill the position; and he hoped the amalgamation would result in good to the educational interests of the Province, and in a large saving to the taxpayers. Before closing he administered a castigation to the hon. member for West River—Mr. Farquharson.

Mr. GAVIN referred to the prediction of the Commissioner of Public Works to the effect that it was probable he would—when admitted to the House—support the Government. If the hon. gentleman's prophecy that the Government would be borne out on appeal to the people—were no truer than this, there was not much hope for the Government. For his part, he was elected to oppose the Government. He intended to do so; and he hoped to be able to give good reasons for the faith that is in him. He criticised the statement made last year, that there was a surplus on the years transactions; and he contended that no such surplus really existed—because money from the Land Office—the capital of the country—had been applied to ordinary revenue purposes. He repudiated the implication that there was any intention on the part of any member in the Opposition to revive the School Question, and he expressed his surprise at the insinuations of the Government after they had expressed so much confidence in Mr. Conroy as to offer that hon. gentleman a seat in their Administration. The Hon. Leader of the Government had facetiously said that his friend from Tignish and himself (Mr. Gavin) had brought the Government nothing but the small-pox. The moment he entered the House he noticed that the hon. gentleman and his friends looked unwell. He understood that dilerium was one of the indications of small-pox; and from the conduct of the hon. Commissioner of Public Works while delivering the opening remarks of his speech, it was evident that he was, at least, slightly delirious. There was no doubt that political death would ensue. (Laughter and applause.) He said that from the moment the majority of the people declared their decision upon the School Question, he felt it his duty to submit; and he accordingly became a School Trustee, and did his best to carry the law into effect. He would never oppose the non-sectarian School System.

Hon. Dr. ROBERTSON congratulated Mr. Gavin upon his well delivered and very good maiden speech. He was glad to hear that the hon. gentleman accepted the situation on the School Question. He defended himself against the imputation that he was not—previously to taking a seat in the Administration—"sound" in his support of the Government. He ventilated the

proceedings of the "caucus" held when the Government was formed. The action of those who withdrew from the Government was, in his opinion, childish and nonsensical. The Government now propose to retrench. They would reduce the Legislature and also the salaries of the members; and they had let the Queen's Printing to tender. He hoped we would get our share of the Fishery Award; for then, and not till then, in his opinion, could the Assessment Act be repealed. He was surprised that the whole press had not praised the Leader of the Government for his able advocacy in the matter of the Fishery Commission.

Mr. NICHOLSON (the junior member for Belfast) deprecated the wasting of precious time in empty talk. But he supposed that the Government thought that by sending their long speeches—composed for the most part of fulsome self-praise—to the country they would create a feeling in their favor. He was returned to oppose the Government; and he felt that he was carrying out the wishes of his constituents when he voted "want of confidence" in it. He had never before made a "speech;" but he could not refrain on that occasion from expressing his surprise that the Government held on so long to power; for they have immortalized themselves already. (Laughter.) They have even had lasting monuments of their administration erected while yet alive. He referred to the declaration of the Leader of the Government that the Opposition meant to rule by brute force; and characterized the declaration as insulting—and especially insulting to the new members of the House who had given the Opposition a majority. He resented the insult as one offered to himself and the District he represented. He criticized the Speech; and remarked that there is in it no expression of thanks to Almighty God for His mercies during the past year—nothing whatever about the bountiful harvest with which the Giver of all Good has blessed us—nothing of the many great blessings we enjoy at the hand of a kind Providence. Previous Governments had never forgotten to put into the Speech from the Throne some recognition of Divine help and support. But this Government seemed to have leaned altogether upon the arm of flesh. And they must, of course, come to the ground. They must go out—and out they go.

Mr. L. McDONALD said last summer the Leader of the Government expected that, because he was a "Grit," he would support the present Government. But he could not see it in that light. He charged that the bad acts of the Leader of the Government had weakened the Grit party in this Island; and he thought that the Government had no right to expect any support from him, whom they had sneered at and insulted. In regard to education, we are told that this question is settled. But still little expressions fall from the Government side of the House which show that they yet hope some feeling may be stirred up on that question. His opinions and convictions respecting education were the same as they ever were; but he felt it to be his duty to submit to the law, and to endeavor to carry it out and make it as effective as possible. Excitement is calculated to do a great deal of injury to the Province; and, as a good citizen, he would do nothing to promote a useless agitation—he would go for giving the School Act a fair trial. He believed some of the details of the School Act very imperfect. For instance, with respect to the average attendance, the law is calculated to make many schools vacant. Nor is the Normal School, in his opinion, doing the good work it should. He complimented the Hon. member for Cardigan on having acquitted himself on the floor of the House in a manner which must give great satisfaction to his constituents. The Government paid no attention to the voice of the people when they had a majority; but now, when they are in a minority, they pay great attention to the voice of the people. Perhaps it is well that they will not again be supported by a majority. With regard to the motion before the House, there could be no doubt on that point. He would support the resolution, because it is right and because it will meet with the approval of his constituents.

Hon. Mr. KELLY said that he also had been invited to join the Government. But he refused even to come to the conference. The Government was obnoxious to his constituents; and it was, therefore, obnoxious to him. The Assessment Act and the Road Service, if nothing more, prevented him from going to the rescue of the Government. He had opposed the School Act; but, now that the question is settled, he was satisfied. He has always had the confidence of his constituents; and he hoped to do nothing by which their confidence would be lost. As to the title of "Honorable," he cared nothing for that, as it had long ago been conferred upon by his Queen.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES denied that he had offered the Hon. Mr. Kelly a seat in the Government. He had only asked him to come to a conference.

Hon. Mr. ARSENAUX said he had always given the Government a fair—not a factious—Opposition. He believed the Government had been hanging on to power too long. If they had resigned after the four members withdrew—and when they knew public opinion was against them—there would have been plenty of time for the elections; and the new Government would have had time to mature their measures. That they did not do so—knowing that public opinion was against them—is highly culpable. The Opposition always said they accepted the situation on the School Question. They had accepted the School Act. But he did not see why the Government should take so much credit to themselves from the School Act. They are not the fathers of it. They did not establish the non-sectarian principle. They only amended the Act; and the non-sectarian principle was in operation twenty-five years ago. We know that the Catholics are in a minority; and what is the use of cavilling about the question when the majority have decided that the public schools shall be non-sectarian. The question had been

tested; and he thought further agitation useless.

Mr. RICHARDS believed it highly desirable that Catholics should be represented in the Government; and if Mr. Conroy had thought fit to accept the position offered him by the Leader of the Government, he should have been most happy to have given the hon. gentleman his support. The financial position of the country was bad when the Government attained to power. Of \$268,000 in the Treasury, when we entered Confederation only \$40,000 remained when the Government attained to power in 1877. The Government had, he thought, done well not to trench further upon the capital of the country. He repudiated any intention of trying to exclude Mr. Gavin from taking his seat in the House. He voted against the motion of the Leader of the Opposition solely because he wished to see the rules of the House maintained. The policy of the Government has changed since last session; and he did not see why Mr. Campbell and other hon. gentlemen in Opposition should not support it. The "reasons" of the four gentlemen who withdrew from the Government were not, in his opinion, good reasons. The Hon. Provincial Secretary said he, as a Conservative, joined the Government on principle; he left the Government on principle; and he opposed the Government on principle; and he was rather surprised that the hon. gentleman had expected Conservatives to fill the vacant seats in the Government.

Hon. Mr. DEBLOIS said he thought they should have been offered the vacant seats. If Conservatives were offered those seats and refused to take them, they were men of principle.

Mr. RICHARDS hoped that our share of the Fishery Award would be handed over to the Local Government. He would support the amalgamation of the Normal School and the Prince of Wales College. He believed the Government had introduced measures of improvement; and that whether they obtained them or not, they deserved the thanks of the Province for what they have done.

Mr. CALHOUN, at the outset, complimented the Leader of the Opposition on the able and courteous way in which he performed his Legislative duties. He placed the responsibility of breaking the Government up upon the four Conservative members who had withdrawn from it. He lectured those honorable gentlemen at great length, and lauded the acts of the Government. The Tax Act, he said, was next to the School Act—the best they had passed. He called upon the House to jealously guard the Free School system. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; and he argued that all who ever differed from the Free School Party must forever be excluded from the Government. He quoted from a Pastoral of the Bishop to show that his Lordship is not yet satisfied, and insinuated that Mr. Conroy and other members are insincere in regard to the School Question. He complimented the Government and eulogised their Leader.

Hon. Mr. DEBLOIS rose to explain. Mr. Calhoun had stated that the members of the Government, who withdrew from the Administration, had betrayed the trusts with which they were charged.

The SPEAKER ruled that Mr. DeBlois could not speak.

Hon. Mr. LEFUEGEY explained some statements of Mr. Calhoun which were calculated to mislead.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE said the base insinuations of the hon. member could only have been made by a mean, contemptible spirit. He hurled them back with indignation; and would convict the hon. gentleman of making deliberate misstatements out of his own mouth.

Mr. SULLIVAN closed with a long and exhaustive speech.

House adjourned at half-past 12 a. m.

#### The Closing Scenes.

THE petty arts and subterfuges of the "Honorable Leader" were unavailing. The new members have been admitted to the House. The motion of "want of confidence" has been debated. The Government is in the throes of dissolution.

The debate has, so far, been a good one; but the position of the Government being utterly untenable, their supporters have been driven from one point to another, till, at last, they are literally without a leg to stand on. The Leader of the Government acquitted himself with great ability. Truth to say, he made the best of his very bad case. His supporters, too, with the sole exception of Mr. Farquharson, did as well as he could have expected them to do. But they have been completely overmatched. The vigor of the Opposition overcame every obstacle placed in the way, every argument, every pretence, every insinuation, every excuse.

The "reasons" of the four gentlemen who left the Government—far from being withheld, as it was charged they would be—were given at the very first opportunity. We shall discuss them at greater length in a future issue. In our opinion any one of the "reasons" is quite sufficient to justify the withdrawal of those honorable gentlemen from the Administration led by the Hon. Mr. Davies. The speech of the Leader of the Opposition was one of the most keenly satirical, witty, argumentative and convincing that we have heard in the Assembly for years. It had a most damaging effect upon the Government. Mr. Ferguson's speech was, also, excellent. For one so new to Parliament, and, comparatively, so little practised in public speaking, the art, fluency and ability Mr. Ferguson displayed are truly remarkable. That Mr. Ferguson, a farmer—whose business does not require much speaking—should prove more than a match in debate for one of our most industrious, talented and practical lawyers—whose business is to speak constantly—must be very gratifying to his constituents and to the great ruling class to which he belongs. Mr. Conroy's speech was a very damaging one—showing, as it does show, that for ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain, the Heathen Chinee is not peculiar. Mr. Conroy's colleague—Mr. Gavin—made a very neat maiden speech; and Mr. Nicholson, the latest—though not the youngest—member for Belfast, proved that he needs only a little

practice to make him a very effective speaker. Messrs. Campbell and McKay both spoke ably and well in opposition to the Government and in support of the retrenchments and reforms they have for years been advocating. The Government now lies prone and bleeding at every pore; and it seems a sort of retributive justice which gives to Mr. Montgomery—the senior member for Belfast and ex-Master of the Normal School—the privilege of giving it the final death blow.

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Thursday, the 20th March,

AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK, A. M.,

for the election of Directors and the transaction of other business.

By order of the Board,

F. W. HALES, Sec'y.

March 4, 1879.

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Lot second-hand Iron Work and second hand Ships' Materials, cheap.

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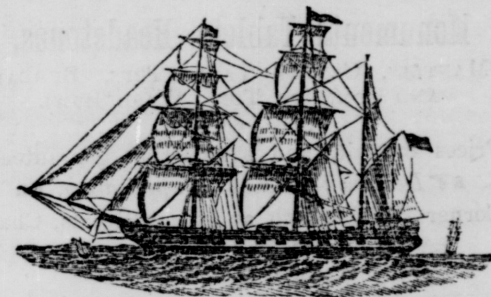
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Ch'town, March 3, 1879.

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