

agreed to on the division subsequently taken as follows:—

AYES—Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Pope, Davies, Whelan, Lord, Jardine, Fraser, M'Donald, Laird, Mooney, Flynn, Clark,—14

NAYS—Honbles. Messrs. Palmer, and Thornton; Messrs. Longworth, Haviland, Yeo, and Montgomery—6.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHAT THE PEOPLE EXPECT FROM RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

TO EDWARD WHELAN, ESQ., M. P. P.
No. 1.

SIR—Mr. Duncan McLean has declared that the People of Prince Edward Island know not what is meant by Responsible Government, and asserted that its establishment would not prove a means of effecting any thing for the public good; but would be made to work solely for the benefit of a few of the leading men amongst the Liberals and of their supporters in the Legislature.

These assertions, as put forth by Mr. McLean, are left entirely unsupported by either arguments or proofs; and, in fact, they are so completely the reverse of truth, as to be incapable of receiving any support from the one or from the other. They are, however, repeated again and again, with so much apparent confidence in their justice, that, lest some, from having neither leisure nor inclination to enquire fully into the principles of Responsible Government, and to calculate the probable results of its establishment in this Colony, should begin to give these assertions such credence as is very often given to thoughtlessly oft-repeated tales of falsehood, which are deemed unworthy of refutation by those who are qualified to disprove them, I will now, Sir, with your permission, through the columns of your paper, give them a more direct denial than any by which they have as yet been honored.

The People, Sir, justly claim to have the Government administered in accordance with their own wishes; and, taught by the grievous experience of many long years, they are fully convinced that, for such an administration of the Government, there cannot be any sufficient guarantee but direct responsibility, on the part of the Government, to the People. They have seen, and, unfortunately, still continue to see that, however faithfully they may be represented in the Assembly, and whatever measures for their relief may be devised there, they will experience no real redress of grievances, so long as the Government shall be composed of individuals, whose private interests are opposed to those of the People, and who, with the Governor, as a tool in their hands, have it in their power, by secret and skilful misrepresentations to the Home Government, to defeat every measure of reform sought to be effected by the House of Assembly.

The People, Sir, whilst they clearly understand that good Government can result only from harmony of action between the Government and the Representatives of the People, and that such harmony can only be ensured by the Government's being dependent for the continuance of their power upon the confidence reposed in them by the Representatives of the People, are also well aware that, should they blindly and unfortunately choose for their Representatives men so utterly devoid of foresight, as well as destitute of every principle of honor and probity, as to be ready to enter upon the duties of Legislators, Administrators, and Officials with a view to nothing but their own private gain and advantage and utterly reckless of every other consequence; the effect of such fatuity on their part and of the harmony, or rather reciprocal collusion, which would then exist between the Government and the Representatives of the People, could not be otherwise than highly prejudicial to the general interests; but they also well know that the remedy for this possible, this barely possible evil, so soon as it should be discovered, would be in their own hands, and that it could not long exist save by their own sufferance. Should not the Governor, seeing the corruption, hasten, of his own accord, to destroy it by an immediate dissolution of the House, the people would not delay to petition his Excellency to that effect; and should the Governor, even then, decline to exercise his prerogative at the desire of the People, redress would be found in an appeal to the Sovereign.

Now, Sir, this is supposing an extreme, and indeed almost impossible case; but, granting the possibility of its occurrence, I have I trust, shown the means by which the evil might be effectually and constitutionally remedied; that is the means by which a bad Government, under the Responsible System, might be broken up and a corrupt Assembly destroyed, and their reverse called into existence, should the People so will it. Thus, whilst the People feel that, under the present Irresponsible System, they are utterly powerless to effect a change in the Government, how much soever it may deserve their hate; they, at the same time, see that, under a Responsible System, they would or might, at all times, have the Government administered according to their own general wishes respecting it.

The existing, under the Responsible System, of a general Assembly and a corrupt Government, reciprocal-

ly cloaking and aiding each other's misdeeds, I have admitted to be possible, but only barely possible. In doing so, I think, however, I have gone a little too far; for I really cannot, by any means, persuade myself fully to believe that a set of men, having characters so fair—and possessing so much influence among the people, as to be chosen their Representatives in Parliament, could be at once so inherently vile and blindly stupid, as to enter upon a career of public villiny, the gains of which, even should they be able to secure them for the period of four years—the full legal duration of an Assembly—could not possibly compensate them for, or sustain them against, their sacrifice of character and the lost confidence of the public.

Fully to believe in the possibility of such a case, would be to embrace the most egregiously absurd idea that men, well qualified to transact public, as well as private business, in an efficient and creditable manner—men capable of so artfully concealing their complete baseness of heart, as to enjoy a reputation for honor and probity—should, at the same time, be absolute fools, and unable to perceive that the possession, for four years, of public power and emoluments—such as they are here—would be far overbalanced by the abandonment of private pursuits, either professional, commercial, or agricultural, consequent upon the receiving an official appointment; such would be the case, and that independently of the far greater, because altogether irreparable, sacrifice of every claim to the future confidence and respect of his fellow-men which such a career of public villiny would inevitably cause. No! it is not possible for a reflective mind to entertain a belief in the possibility of an association in any individual of qualities so incongruous; and, if not, the supposition that a House of Assembly and a Government, composed of such characters might arise either here or any where else, under Responsible Government, must fall to the ground.

I shall for the present conclude this letter, and in my next I will take a rational view of the changes which would in all probability, be effected, with respect to the composition of the Government and the filling of Government or Public Offices, on the introduction of the Responsible System.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A CHARLOTTETOWN LIBERAL.

June 14, 1850.

The Examiner.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1850.

DONKEY'S LAST BRAY AGAINST THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

DONKEY, in the last *Islander*, has laboured hard to shew that the constitution of Great Britain is an actual curse to the people, and that it has been carried out by nothing but bribery and corruption since the time of William and Mary. We mean not to question the existence of the immense national debt of Great Britain; neither do we intend to defend the policy in which it originated, or to justify the subsequent courses which led to its amazing augmentation: but we will take leave to remind the oblivious Donkey that by the acquisition of colonies and dependencies, and the extension of her commerce, Great Britain, whilst increasing her debt, has increased her resources to an extent so unbounded, if we may so speak, that the payment of the interest of that debt, immense as it is, does not, in any way, operate to the diminution of her wealth and power. Had it been otherwise, how could she at once have maintained an overgrown population and have resisted the shock which has overturned almost every other monarchy in the world, and involved nearly all the continental nations of Europe in one common misery. Great Britain is like a man in business, although he may be thousands in debt, yet can pay the interest and secure the amount of the principal upon real estate; and such a one, whilst, by his own well-directed and successful enterprise, he doubles his estate in value, has as just a title to be considered a benefactor to his country, as he who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before. But to such a character, Donkey and "the clique compact" bear not the most distant resemblance. They have run the country in debt, not to improve or extend the public resources, but to buy offices for themselves; as witness the job for securing the Solicitor Generalship effected by a bribe to the Governor. Does Donkey think that, for the annual saving of a few thousands, or even a few millions, the people of Great Britain would relinquish the power, which they now possess of managing their own affairs, and bestow it upon the Sovereign and a few men such as Donkey, who would sell themselves at thirty pieces of paper a head, and barter their con-

sciences for "the wages of iniquity?" We trow not. Donkey knows better, whatever false notes of alarm he may bray forth to affright "the natives." He well knows that the People of Great Britain are far, very far indeed, from being weary of their constitution; and that the last thing likely to alarm the good people of Prince Edward Island, will be the prospect of being admitted to a full participation of the privileges and benefits of that glory of the Parent State.

Donkey says, "if Walpole and Fox resorted to bribery to keep themselves in office, why should not Coles, Swabey, Whelan, &c., follow such brilliant precedents, if the people be foolish enough to arm them with the means and power?"

If "Coles, Swabey, Whelan, &c.," should get into power, they will be advanced to it only by the favour of the people, and by the continuance of their favour alone will they be enabled to retain it. If, therefore, seeing that they must have recourse to bribery to render themselves secure in their elevation, it is only reasonable to suppose that, as men of merely common sagacity and prudence, they will endeavor to secure the good will and support of the people by bribing them with that which they will value the most and which will cost themselves the least—and that is GOOD GOVERNMENT, at once the most effective and the cheapest bribe.

Should they, however, foolishly rely upon such bribery as that by which Donkey is attached to the interests of the present officials, they would most certainly find, in coming to give an account of their stewardship, that their occupation was forever gone; and that the farmers, although they are merely tenants, would have it in their power to say with supreme authority, "Begone! Give place to honest men! We have done with you. You need never expect to receive our support or confidence again." Yes, upon the farmer tenantry will it chiefly devolve to choose both the Legislature and the Government; although a certain Land Agent, now seeking to be re-seated in the Assembly, has said that the Colony is not ripe for Responsible Government, because the majority of the electors are tenant farmers. But they know—and they ought to make him sensible that they know it—that, if they be thought capable of choosing suitable legislators, they ought to be held equally capable of choosing the form of their Government.

We should, indeed, like Donkey to shew on what grounds he supposes himself, John Ings, Sir Donald Campbell, James Yeo, J. S. Smith, T. H. Haviland, and a few others, more capable of choosing their form of Government, than the great body of the people. We know of no superiority which these individuals can claim over the peaceable, the industrious, the intelligent, and the independent yeomen of this Island, save in the pre-eminence due to mercenary slavery, pompous ignorance, rabid ferocity, the impudence of innate lowness, unseemly hauteur, bland insincerity, and the endless turnings of deception, all bound together, cemented and supported by rank corruption. In these, it must be confessed they stand ignobly pre-eminent; but how immeasurably are they beneath the true standard of dignity in man!

Donkey has been continually harping about the expenses of the last two Sessions. But let us turn to the items of those of one Session, when Donkey and his party were in power, in 1849, and we shall find that, independently of bribes, they amounted to £2,236 9s. 4½d.; whereas the expenses of the two aboat which Donkey has brayed so loud and long, did not much exceed £900.

As a set-off to McLean's stereotyped prediction, which everybody who reads the *Islander* must be sick and tired of, namely, that the Liberal party would, were they possessed of the power, lavish and plunder the public money—we will just adduce two facts, which are worth a shipload of Duncan's washy editorials. In 1847 the Liberals had a majority in the House of Assembly—did they squander the Revenue and enrich themselves? No—their legislation was creditable to themselves and advantageous to the Colony in the highest degree; they not only kept the public expenditure within the revenue, but effected a saving of £4,594, which went to defray so much of the public debt. In the following year the Tories got a majority by the defection of one or two half-baked Liberals, and the arbitrary expulsion of Messrs. Coles and Warburton; and one of the first fruits of that majority was an expenditure of £5,762 over the revenue of that year! thereby entailing an interest of upwards of £345, without taking into account their extravagance in the matter of the Governor's and the Judge's salaries. These facts may serve as a caution to Donkey to be silent on the subject of extravagance.