

The Examiner.

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

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, MONDAY, JULY 17, 1848.

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THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, JULY 17, 1848.

THE ELECTION FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT OF PRINCE COUNTY.

Having given in our last No. a statement of the number of votes polled on the several days of polling at the above Election, which we republish in this morning's edition for our country readers to the westward, we now give a report of the speeches delivered by the Candidates and by the Hon. Mr. Coles, together with a few observations of our own in reference to this Election.

The Hon. JAMES WARBURTON—having been proposed by Mr. Patrick Murphy, and seconded by Mr. John Hughes, ascended the Hustings, and addressed the Electors to the following effect:—

GENTLEMEN—The Election at which you are now about to exercise your privilege is the result of my having taken a seat in the Executive Council. The offer of this seat was conveyed to me by Sir Henry Huntley in the most handsome manner, and my acceptance of it was fully approved of by the Liberal, or, as they are sometimes called, the "Snatcher" Party. In going into the Council, I had no wish to vacate my seat in the House of Assembly—no expectation that it would be vacated by such a proceeding on my part. Sir H. V. Huntley, as you will perceive by the letter which he addressed to me on the occasion, and which I will take the liberty to read for you—together with my political friends in the Assembly—felt quite assured that my going into the Council could not possibly affect my seat in the Legislature. I did not covet or seek the honour of a seat in Council; for, had that been the limit of my ambition, I could have gratified it several years ago, as Her Majesty's Representative had been graciously pleased to offer me a seat in Council on more than one occasion; and I refused the honour, not because I was too poor, as Mr. Nicholas Conroy appeared to think when he was advocating in the House of Assembly pay to the Members of the Legislative Council, but because I thought a Member of the Council ought, at least, to possess the confidence of the people. It was my desire, in taking a seat in the Council, not to serve myself, but to serve you, your children, and your children's children; and I regarded the seat only as valuable so long as I held my seat in the House of Assembly as your Representative. I will now read you the letter I received from the Lieutenant Governor on this subject.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, October 20, 1847.

My dear Sir;

I remember with much gratification, that in my visit to you during the Summer, you expressed yourself ready to accept a seat in the Executive Council of this Island under the present circumstances of the political affairs; it now has become my pleasing duty to inform you that the conduct of Mr. Palmer has met its reward, and the "Examiner" will furnish you with the account of his removal from the Council, which vacancy I am satisfied you will consent to fill. I shall, therefore, give orders to Gazette you on Tuesday next. I do not apprehend this appointment will affect your seat in the Assembly, although you accept it, because there is no law of the Island calling upon the member accepting a seat in the Executive Council to vacate that which he holds in the Assembly: Mr. Pope, as Speaker, certainly notified to me that a vacancy in the Assembly had been occasioned by the acceptance of a seat in the Executive Council by Mr. Coles, under the 6th Will. 4th, cap. 24, clause 24; but the Law Officers have given their opinion that this law does not in any manner apply to the present time.

H. V. HUNTLEY.

It is, perhaps, right that I should briefly explain the section of the Act under which it is alleged I have vacated my seat in the Assembly. This Act was passed when the Executive and Legislative Councils formed one body only: it sat, as the Legislative Council now does, simultaneously with the House of Assembly; and, consequently, if a member of the Assembly were called to a seat in the Council, he must, as a matter of course

vacate his seat in the former House, because he could not attend to the duties of both at the one time. Now, this is the only view that can be taken of the section of the Act, under which it has been held by the House of Assembly that I have vacated my seat. The Crown Law Officers have argued the matter in this light; and this just interpretation of the Act in question is supported by the fact, that Messrs. Pope, Palmer, and J. S. McDonald took seats in the Executive Council without resigning their places in the Assembly. I have thus endeavoured to explain to you the cause for this Election. If you think I have abused the confidence reposed in me at the last Election—if you think I have acted wrongfully in any matter while I held my seat in the House of Assembly—do not vote for me. Most of you, who have now come forward to support me, were opposed to me then. In offering that opposition, you acted like honest men. I am still, however, the same person; but you know me better; and the reason which induces Mr. Yeo to oppose me now, is the reason which will no doubt induce many of you to vote for me. I am told that Mr. Yeo has justified his opposition on this ground, that I went into the House of Assembly as a servant to him, and my conduct not having satisfied him, he thinks no one should blame him for keeping me out.

Mr. YEO denied that he offered any such reason for opposing Mr. Warburton.

One of the Electors came forward and testified to the truth of Mr. Warburton's statement.

Mr. YEO still denied the fact, and remarked—"We have had a trial of Mr. Warburton."

Mr. WARBURTON—Yes, the Compact have had a trial of me, and not finding me a fit instrument for their purposes, they encourage Mr. Yeo to use his influence in order to keep me out of the Assembly. How have I displeased Mr. Yeo and his friends? Because I voted to sustain Mr. Coles in his seat—because they knew I would have voted against giving pay to the Legislative Council, and against increasing the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor. It has been said that I am afraid to express my opinion freely on political subjects, because I hold a seat in the Council. Those who say or think so, are mistaken. My holding a seat in Council shall never hinder me from expressing my opinion freely. I was willing to resign that seat when His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell assumed the administration of the Government; but now I shall not resign; if His Excellency be pleased to remove me, he is, of course, at liberty to do so; no change in the form of Government, however, calls for my resignation, and I conceive I would be doing an injustice to my political friends to adopt such a step. If I am again honoured with your confidence, I shall use every exertion to deserve it; and in exercising your franchise on my behalf, it should be remembered that it is not James Warburton you will be voting for, but for those political principles which he boldly avows at this place, and will be prepared to advocate in the Assembly. You will be voting for Responsible Government, and surely you will not hesitate to say that you are fit for it,—you will be voting against an increase of taxation on your lands,—you will be voting for a fair proportion of money for your Roads and Bridges, and against transferring to other Districts what of right belongs to your own. As to the land question, I am no Escheator, more than Mr. Yeo; I have always spoken against the measure; but I will be ever ready to give my support to any reasonable plan which may be proposed for the relief of the Tenantry; such, for instance, as the Bill introduced by Mr. Coles during the last Session, to establish by law the rate of currency to be taken for rents, at one-ninth. The principle of that Bill has been recognised and acted upon by myself while Agent for Lot 11; for I would consider it an injustice to demand from the Tenant, as has been the case even in this neighbourhood, in several instances, the sterling rate of money—1s. 6d. instead of shilling with one

ninth added. It would be wise to legalize the understanding in reference to this matter, between landlord and tenant; and such a measure will have my ready support if I am returned to the Legislature. I do not think it necessary for me to say any more. I have told you as plainly as I can, what my principles are. I do not pretend to the eloquence of a Grattan or a Curran; but if you think I can serve your interests, you will return me, and you may rely upon my faithfully preserving the trust with which I will be charged. [The hon. gentleman then sat down amidst the most enthusiastic cheering.]

JAMES YEO, Esq., then came forward to address the Electors. He was proposed by Charles Craswell, Esq., and seconded by Mr. James Hardy. He said—

GENTLEMEN—This is the fourth time I have been upon the Hustings. At the last Election, as you are aware, I might have been returned, but I resigned in favour of Mr. Warburton, whom I thought would be a useful member. But I have been disappointed in him. I did not expect he would take the part he did, in acting with those who call themselves "Liberal." Where was their liberality when the public subscription was got up last spring for the relief of the poor? Some of them gave a few shillings; but remember the sums given by others—Mr. Peters gave £60; I gave £15 myself. Do you not recollect the time when Mr. Le Lacheur—one of this liberal party—came with a long story to this part of the country, and misled the people by leading them to believe they could get their lands escheated. I did not think that Mr. Warburton would go with that kind of people when he went into the House of Assembly. They talk about the £500 granted as an additional Salary to the present Governor; but Sir Henry Huntley took, of his own accord, £150 from the Treasury, to pay his travelling expenses to Canada.

[The Hon. Mr. COLES, who was present, stepped forward to explain in reference to this matter, and shewed that Sir H. V. Huntley was authorized by the Imperial Government to draw the amount required for his mission, and to repay the Colony the amount so drawn out of the Crown Land Fund.]

Mr. YEO—Sir Henry Huntley never acted like an honest man.

Mr. WARBURTON. I believe that Sir Henry Huntley was as faithful a friend to, and as good a Governor of, this Island as ever yet appeared in it.

Mr. YEO. What was his conduct in reference to this very subject of procuring an increase to his Salary? He wanted £500 to use his influence to keep the Escheators out of the House of Assembly. What good has been done for the country during the last ten years by those liberal men? They have not accomplished a penny's worth of benefit—they tell you a fine story, and rob you behind your backs. So long as they get their own pay, they do not care what becomes of the country. How did Mr. Cooper behave? He agitated the country until he made money—got a ship, and then laughed at the people. I have been known for a long time, both in the House and out of it, and every one knows that I have done my best to advance the interests of the Island—to encourage agriculture, to improve the breed of cattle—

A Voice—O, we don't want you in the House at all.

Mr. YEO—Can you tell me of any one thing I have done against the country while I was in the House of Assembly. I have not acted as Mr. Hensley did, who is one of those fine liberals. He lent out 20,000 or £30,000, and then wanted to lower the dollars to five shillings, so as to make a large profit by the money which he had out.

Mr. COLES denied this assertion, and observed, that Mr. Hensley, instead of wishing to decrease, was anxious to enhance, the value of dollars to 6s. 3d.

Mr. YEO. I have always done every thing in my power for the benefit of the Tenantry; and I have generally paid the rent for many of them in this District.