

have taken no interest in seeing it reduced, now storm at all little failures of those who have removed it, merely because they have a party standing in the relation of a cause however remotely, on which to vent their wrath. So there could be a tendency to howl at every misgiving of any systematic colonisation; while the horrible wretchedness inflicted on passengers in private emigrant vessels, and the many hardships unavoidably incurred by independent emigrants in the first years of their settlement, attract scarcely any notice. Such outcries are very irrational, and a judicious public should be superior to them.

To emigrate is a most important step for man or woman. It should not be set about rashly, or without a full view of the sacrifices which it involves, in order that an ultimate good may be attained. When the legitimate object of a new home (not fortune) is sought, every one must bear of failure with regret; but we may know well beforehand that some persons are so constituted that disappointment is unavoidable. For those who, having given themselves a fair trial in their native country, and found they could make no progress, and for all those active and bounding spirits which submit with pain to the habits of old society, emigration may prove a most advantageous step, if they only will bear in mind that there is no regular or certain means of benefiting themselves anywhere but by hard work and prudence. Hardships and privations there must be in a new settlement, and these the emigrant must be prepared to meet with fortitude. Some men are apt to overlook them in their calculations. Others, it is quite as true, entertain exaggerated notions of them. We thoroughly believe in their existence; but we feel equally sure that, once embarked in his career, the excitement of novelty and constant progress, and the happy assurance that every suffering and every exertion is for a final good to himself, render the settler's early years far from the ordeal of misery which we who 'live at home at ease' would suppose.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN ELECTION.

MR. EDITOR,

The *Royal Gazette* discloses the fact that Edward Palmer, Esq., has again offered his services to represent Charlottetown in the Assembly. From the manner in which Mr. Palmer's address is worded, we are led to infer that that gentleman is quite sanguine in reference to his election—that he considers his duty well and faithfully performed while formerly in the Legislature, and that he has now but to make known his wishes, in order again to hold a seat in that Body.

I think, Mr. Editor, before the public mind should agree with the estimate formed of it by Mr. Palmer, every elector of Charlottetown should propose to himself the following questions, and then, after having thoroughly and impartially examined them, it appears to me that they will be better prepared to act their part at the approaching Election: 1st, Has Mr. Palmer's past conduct been such as to warrant the electors of Charlottetown in again choosing him as their Representative? 2d, Would it, at the present time, be politic to elect Mr. Palmer? And, 3d, What may be expected as the consequences of Mr. Palmer's election or rejection?

Touching the first question: Sometimes when speaking to persons relative to the propriety of again electing Mr. Palmer, as our representative, they will tell you that they do not see any reason why that gentleman should not be re-elected—that he has at all times endeavoured to secure good legislation for the Town—that he has obtained as large a portion of the public money for its use as was possible, and also that he has been a very useful member of the House in his professional capacity; and that in consideration of those things, he should again hold a seat in the Legislature. That Mr. Palmer has represented the interests of Charlottetown faithfully, and been a useful member of the Assembly, I do not wish to dispute; but I would ask those individuals who make this their plea for supporting that gentleman—has Mr. Palmer been a steady opposer of monopoly—has he endeavoured to make the public officers of the Colony accountable to the people for their conduct? Have the general measures which he has advocated been such as to raise the People and Government of this Island in the estimation of their fellow colonists? Is the system of Government which Mr. P. has upheld, and is upholding, calculated to develop and improve our resources? And has he endeavoured to throw open offices of public trust and emolument to all classes of the community? Each of these enquiries must be answered in the negative: as a proof: Mr. Palmer's public acts during the last two or three years in particular establishes the fact, that he is allied with the Family Compact which wields the scepter

in this Island—which monopolizes nearly every public office—which does not acknowledge the right of the people to scrutinize the acts of their public servants—which degrades the Colony in the estimation of the neighbouring Provinces—which divests our people of that feeling of self-respect and independence of which they should be possessed—which clogs the wheels of improvement, and restrains enterprise—and which closes up the avenues to preferment, and buries the talents that would otherwise burst forth, and shed a lustre over our Pulpit, Bar, and Halls of Legislation. And if it be a fact that Mr. Palmer has been associated with the party just named, which exerts such an influence, it follows that he must have advocated its measures, and used his efforts to uphold its authority; and I would now ask—is there just ground to suppose that he will change his opinions and feelings, that he will withdraw from his old friends, and that he will in future be characterised by those magnanimous and liberal principles which should ever distinguish the statesman. On the contrary, Mr. Editor, it appears to me that the reverse may be expected—in fact the very cause of the present election being held is a proof that Mr. Palmer will still unflinchingly advocate his old measures, and endeavour to prolong the existing state of things. Then it must appear conclusive that Mr. P.'s past conduct has not been such as would justify the people of Charlottetown in again choosing him as their Representative.

The second question now comes before us—Would it be politic at the present time to elect Mr. Palmer? We are all aware that the Responsible System of Government has been introduced into the neighbouring Colonies; and there can be no doubt but that if we petition the Home Government respectfully but firmly, it will not be long before the same boon is granted to this Island; but if we are really desirous that this should be the case, and we petition for it, it must appear evident to every person that our actions should correspond with the wishes we express. It is well known at Downing Street that the reigning dynasty in this Colony is opposed to responsibility, and that Mr. P. having been appointed Solicitor General, must be one of its supporters. Should, therefore, the electors of Charlottetown, the capital of the Island, elect Mr. Palmer, it would be tantamount to telling the Home Government that we are well satisfied with the present state of things—that we do not entertain the slightest fear that any public officer will ever prove unfaithful to his trust, and that there is not the least necessity that the people of P. E. Island should be clothed with the power of appointing, displacing, and regulating the salaries of their public servants, as they think fit: therefore, taking all these matters into consideration, it would not be a mark of sound policy to return Mr. Palmer to the Assembly at the approaching Election.

In reference to the last question I need scarcely say any thing, except that should Mr. Palmer be elected, the Family Compact will be strengthened, monopoly will increase, native talent will be buried, the bone and sinew of the country will leave our shores, and we will be compelled to grovel on in the old track, the scorn and derision of our fellow Colonists. On the other hand let the electors of Charlottetown but come boldly forward, and shew that they are determined that existing abuses shall come to an end—let them reject Mr. Palmer, and such a step will shew to the Home Government more plainly than petitioning could ever do, that we are determined to place only those persons in the Legislature who will be pledged to support Responsibility, and that we will use all lawful means, in order to obtain that form of government which will have a tendency to develop our resources, bring native talent to the light, and raise us in the scale of Provincialism.

I will now take leave of your Charlottetown readers, by requesting them to weigh well those matters which I have so imperfectly brought before them, and having done so, candidly and impartially, I am convinced that they will be prepared to act at the approaching Election in a manner that will redound to their credit, and be a preliminary step to the obtaining that form of Government which it is the right of every British subject to live under.

Thanking you for your indulgence, I remain, Mr. Editor, Yours, &c.

HOW TO ANSWER A PETITION.—An exchange paper says that a deputation waited upon the Pacha of Egypt, and requested a mitigation of certain grievances. The Pacha hung the whole delegation.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1848.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION! FIFTEEN BUILDINGS BURNT TO THE GROUND!—LOSS NEARLY £5,000!!

On Sunday morning it was our lot to witness the commencement and the close of the most destructive Fire that ever perhaps occurred at Charlottetown—it was certainly the greatest and most calamitous that has happened within the period of our own recollection. About 4 o'clock on Sunday morning an alarm was given, (by whom we know not) that a fire was just then breaking out of the roof of the Work Shop owned and occupied by Mr. John Scott, Coachmaker, in Kent Street; nearly half an hour, however, elapsed before the Church Bells could be rung, and the painful intelligence communicated to the ears of our fellow townsmen. Meanwhile, the fire, as it forced its way through every part of the building, and became fanned by a freshening southerly west wind, had so far gained the ascendancy before the engines arrived, and ere a good supply of water could be obtained, that the destruction of the Work Shop at least, appeared at once inevitable. The efforts of the Fire Companies, aided by others of the inhabitants and such of the Military as were not required to work the Barrack Engine, (which was used with great energy), were directed to preserve the adjacent Buildings, and to remove from out of them the household furniture and other moveable property. But, unhappily, their efforts to preserve the other adjoining buildings were all in vain—the fire, having nearly consumed the Work-shop and Paint-Shop of Mr. Scott, caught his Dwelling House—(a fine two story building)—and, the supply of water being scarce, and the wind increasing, it was found impossible to arrest the progress of the flames, which immediately communicated with the Stable, Blacksmith Shop, and Dwelling House, owned and occupied by Mr. J. W. Cairns, and from thence the flames spread to the group of Buildings in the possession and ownership of Mr. John Hobbs—thence to the house on Great George Street, in the occupancy of Mr. Jacques, of the Excise, and owned by Mr. Hobbs, and thence to two houses owned and partly occupied by Mrs. Hardy, on the same street. All these houses were destroyed—every exertion was made to save them, and it was at one time feared that other houses in the vicinity, and particularly in the direction in which the wind blew, would be enveloped in flames, fragments of the burning mass falling upon the roofs, which were only protected by wet blankets. About 9 o'clock the fire was completely got under, when, in the space of five hours, nothing remained of some of the finest houses in the town, but a heap of ashes and burnt timbers.

It has not been ascertained how the fire originated. It broke out in the work shop of Mr. Scott, where there was a heap of shavings, and it is supposed these caught fire from one of the stoves.

The following is, we believe, a correct list as far as it goes, of the buildings and other property destroyed:

A Work Shop, new Paint Shop and new Dwelling House of Mr. Scott, together with some articles of household furniture, Waggons, Sleighs, Gigs, and working tools—valued at about £1,000.

A small Stable belonging to Mr. John Breen.

A Blacksmith Shop, containing some Sleighs, Waggons, and Blacksmith tools, to a large amount in value, owned by Mr. Cairns—Also, a large Stable, a new frame for a Coach House, and the Dwelling House, known as the "Globe Inn," together with some of the furniture, all belonging to Mr. Cairns, who estimates his loss at about £2,000.

Property destroyed, belonging to Mr. Hobbs:—Dwelling House occupied by himself—Cabinet-maker's Work-Shop, together with many of his tools, and stock and furniture, (part of the building being occupied by Mr. William Howard as a Grocery Shop)—a Store House at the corner of Kent and Great George Streets—a Stable,—and a Dwelling House, occupied by Mr. Jacques, who lost some of his furniture; worth, in all, we suppose, from £1,000 to £1,500.

Two Dwelling Houses owned by Mrs. Hardy, worth about £300.

Six or seven of those building were entirely new, and not one shilling insured upon any of them, the