

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., AUGUST 8, 1859.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEFENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The leading article in the Government organ of the 29th ult., which want of space prevented our noticing last week—displays great anxiety on the part of the Colonial Secretary, who is organ grinder, to appease, if possible, the discontent which so generally prevails at the reckless manner in which offices have been scattered amongst the partizans of the new family compact at the head of affairs.

The Secretary begins his defence with an observation highly complimentary to us as a writer. He says, that as we are not provided with a public office like himself, we can devote much time to the composition of lengthy editorials; and, therefore, he assures his readers, in the most formidable non-sequitur style, that, the articles in the Examiner are deemed unworthy of notice by so important a personage as himself. We shall see long before the four years have expired how far this style of defence will avail to keep the Government in the hands of the present officials. The *Islander* then proceeds to eulogise the late appointments, concerning which it states "that as the persons selected for office are men of good character and efficiency, we presume the great majority of the people will be well satisfied."

Whatever may be the "character" of the individuals referred to, we have positive proof that very many of them are shamefully inefficient. Besides the information which reaches us every day with respect to the blundering of the new petty officials in this County and King's County, we have the testimony of the Hon. Mr. Warburton in this day's paper, the authenticity of which he vouches for over his own signature, to the incompetency of the parties who have been appointed to various little offices in Prince County. Another influential correspondent at Lot One supplies similar information with respect to an appointment in that place; and a letter from Murray Harbour, now before us, assures us that "the new Custom House officer in that place cannot do his business. He has worn more shoes," adds our correspondent, "in running backwards and forwards to old Mr. Richards for instruction than the salary of his office for the first quarter will pay for."

After duly praising those notable appointments, the Secretary, as in duty bound, eulogises the Executive Council that made them. He says:—

"The members of the present Executive devote their time to the public service, with no other object in view than the general good of the Colony, in the welfare and prosperity of which they are individually largely interested. They do not receive one shilling of the public money."

Had Hon. Mr. Yeo, as an Executive Councillor, no other object in view than the general good of the Colony in recommending his son-in-law for an office at Bedeque, his brother for another office at Port Hill, his blacksmith for another, to say nothing of the office given to another son-in-law in Charlottetown? Had the Hon. J. C. Pope—another Councillor—no "object" in getting his brother into the Secretary's Office, where we all know he would not be but for the position held by the former? Had the Hon. T. Heath Haviland—another Councillor—no "object" in getting his partner and cousin into the office of Attorney General, where he can share with him the salary and the advantages of an increased professional practice? Had the Hon. Mr. J. Longworth—another Councillor—no "object" in getting one of his brothers into the office of Collector of Excise for Charlottetown, and another High Sheriff for the County? And had the Leader of the Government himself, Mr. Palmer, no "object" in attaining a position as Councillor, where he can employ himself as Queen's Counsel, and receive a great deal more than "one shilling of the public money?"

The *Islander* asserts that the "great majority of the people care very little to whom public offices are given so long as the duties attached to them are honestly and efficiently performed"—that the object of the change in the Government was to render life and property safe—to have the public revenues faithfully collected and accounted for, and to put an end to favoritism in the expenditure of the public money. As to the carelessness of the majority of the people regarding the disposal of the public offices, we have a fine commentary in the fact that the Tory party—who will no doubt claim a right to be reckoned amongst the majority of the people—are all but split into fragments because hundreds of them did not obtain offices for themselves and immediate friends, and hundreds of others honestly disapprove of the reckless manner in which the Government patronage has been dispensed; and many influential persons, who cannot consistently join the Liberals, are now exceedingly anxious for the formation of a third party. With regard to the efficiency of many of the new officials, the reverse, as above intimated, is too notorious to be disputed.

The insinuation that life and property were not secure under the late Government, or that the public revenues were embezzled—is not merely false, but it has not a shadow of proof to rest upon. For an answer to the charge of "favoritism," also insinuated against the late Government, we defy the *Islander* to produce an instance of it; but before doing so, let its new official editor answer our enquiries respecting the members of the Executive Council and their relatives.

The Secretary says that there was "no confidence in the integrity of the Legislature" under the late Government. There is no doubt that he and two or three others, who sought to exact a very large sum of money, alleged to be due as a balance for the purchase of the Worrel Estate, but with respect to which they could not make the Government fall into their views—had no confidence in the Legislature which sustained that Government. The proprietary party generally had "no confidence" in a Parliament which proposed to tax their rent rolls; and by purchasing large estates, sought to reduce the extravagant prices demanded for wilderness land. But we believe that if the last House of Assembly had presented a bolder front to the proprietors, and had gone as far as advocating a direct escheat of the forfeited lands, the "great majority of the people" would have liked it better, and a proprietary Government, such as is now in existence, could never have been established in the Colony.

Alluding to the depreciation of the Government securities a year ago, the *Islander* states:—

"At this time last year, Warrants on the Treasury, issued in payment of the Road service, for sums from 40s. upwards, were hawked in numbers through the streets of Charlottetown, and he who would buy them at a discount of from ten to twenty-five per cent. was considered a friend by the unfortunate

uncle, together with some of his homely remarks, I take the liberty of forwarding them to you by this mail.

SANDY.

P. E. Island, July 23, 1859.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR.—The perusal of your editorial in the last *Examiner* has induced me to write you a few lines on the dismissal of officials in this part of the Island, and the public may judge whether the complaint said to have been made by the great body of the respectable inhabitants has been met by the appointment of a better set of officials. I shall commence with Mr. Bell, who, with the exception of Mr. McDonald, of Georgetown, was the best out-port collector on the Island. Although I believe Mr. Bell did not vote at all at the last election, he has been dismissed, and replaced by Mr. James Forsyth, who is totally ignorant of the duties of his office. In the same locality, Mr. Wells, the best Road Commissioner ever appointed in the District, had to make way for Mr. Robert Gordon, who, I understand, can scarcely write out his own sales, and who, when appointed some years ago to the office by the Tory party, through ignorance had the large bridge over Hill's River erected in the wrong place, causing an extra expense of some hundreds of pounds to the country, besides placing it ten chains more out of the way; and whoever will inspect the work done by Mr. Gordon and Mr. Wells, will at once see how very much better done the latter is. It was declared by the Inspector of Public Works to be the best constructed bridge on the Island. Moreover, Mr. Wells last summer voted for Mr. Hubbard, the Tory candidate. Next comes Mr. Joseph Murphy, who Mr. Yeo declared in the Assembly had filled up the holes in the Western Road with grass, and he has since gone by the nickname of the Grass Commissioner. I come next to Mr. Lawrence Yeo, brother to the Hon. James Yeo, who replaces Mr. McInnis, and whose only merit consists in his being his brother's bailiff, and bailiff to the Small Debt Court of Port Hill. Next we have Mr. Donald Campbell, of St. Eleanor's. This individual was appointed during the five months administration of the Tory party in 1854. It was found, however, on the Liberal party resuming the Government, that this Road Commissioner had made rather too free with the public money, and was compelled by Mr. Hensley, as Attorney General, to return a sum of £3 which he drew from the Road Correspondent for work done by a Frenchman at Misecoche. The latter complained that the Commissioner refused to pass his contract, on the plea that it was badly done; yet in order to obtain the money he had to certify that it was done according to contract, and to his, the Commissioner's, satisfaction. I shall complete my list for the present by noticing the appointment of Mr. Charles Green, as Collector for Bedeque. I was told by a gentleman in business, that he had occasion to make an entry at the Customs, and that the new Collector knew nothing at all about the business. But your correspondent at Summerside has so truthfully described the feeling of his party, I shall merely ask why was not Mr. Campbell, or Mr. Harry Green, or Mr. Walsh (who were all firm supporters of the present Government,) appointed? For every one knows either of these gentlemen was well qualified to fill the office, but they had no family connection with Mr. Yeo. The answer is plain enough: Mr. Yeo controls three seats in the Assembly, and if the Government refused to appoint his relations to office, might, whenever he pleased, upset them. We see now a family compact in town and country, and rumour says the latter is to be further strengthened by the appointment of Mr. Yeo's son as Collector of Land Tax, and that the present very efficient Postmaster at Port Hill is to be dismissed, and Mr. Yeo's blacksmith appointed in his place.

I may at some more convenient time write again on this subject, with reference to the opening of letters at this office in the good old times, when it was the custom of the Postmaster to open the mail bags on their way to the office, and when my own newspapers were found on the high road at St. Eleanor's, and forwarded to me by private conveyance. My excuse for not writing sooner is, that I do not see the *Gazette*, and you do not publish the new appointments as they are made.

I remain, yours very truly,

J. WARBURTON.

Woodbrook, July 25, 1859.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—As your space is much solicited at the present time to convey to the public mind the policy of the present Government in a true light, it is with diffidence I respectfully request admission into your columns of a few remarks on its impolitic extension to this part of the Island. While the superceding of many office-holders, in King's County, being the supposed stronghold of the late Government, may be thought to be in harmony with the late defence of the Government, the same principle cannot be wisely extended to Prince County, particularly Lot 1 and vicinity, where the appointments of the late Government afforded general satisfaction; but more especially the one the removal of which elicits the present comments. It is scarcely necessary for an inhabitant of this District to express his astonishment at the conduct of the Government in appointing the most unworthy and uneducated to office; for he, in common with the great majority of the inhabitants, partly anticipated it; and also when it has, through that course, extorted an expression of the most unqualified contempt and disgust from its former zealous supporters. In a District, six-sevenths of which being composed of Liberals, and enjoying perfect satisfaction with the appointments of the late Government, it does not appear that the present Government study the general weal, when they chose to invest a quite illiterate and unpopular character with an office of which they divest a man whose acquirements and standing in the world are *vice versa*. Such persons are also equally culpable with the Government for accepting what they are so incapable of executing and deserve a public reproof, by which it is known the public may benefit. They are, and some of them have been, the first to taunt others when brought into public life, popular and estimable men, with their lack of education, when they themselves are wanting in the mere rudiments of knowledge; but since the Government cannot exercise even its own constitutional influence, but have to bow to the despotic behests of one influential groveller, we must accept even less qualified persons to office, if possible, than Mr. B. Haywood, who has been appointed to the Commissionership of Roads and Bridges instead of Thos. G. Ruggles, Esq. As the former individual is minus every acquirement but that of a large amount of presumption and a natural willingness to bestow as much security as any case may not call for, we cannot conjecture at the motive of the Government in giving him office, except that they wish to reward him for an intolerent display of irrational and vociferous feeling against the late Government previous to the last Election. It can be only safely inferred, from the course now pursued by the Government, that the interest of the people is not even held as a matter of secondary importance, but the securing themselves in power and distributing the offices as economically as possible for that purpose, is what is engaging their most serious attention. This is the coerced policy that has already rendered them obnoxious to more than a third of their former supporters, irrespective of the Liberals, who anticipated this, and much more which is yet to come, or Mr. Yeo will take three, or perhaps four, voices from their Government "whatever," if he do not be allowed to govern himself—the menacing of which will make our constitution to tremble or be submissive and ready to accede to any demand our little despot wishes to enforce.

Yours truly,

L. C. M.

Lot 1, July, 29th, 1859.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I observe in the *Islander* of the 8th instant an article, purporting to be a notice of a Picnic held at Bedeque, in which it is stated that the principal feature of the Picnic

was the "Mammoth Strawberry Pie," and then it goes on to state the dimensions of the pie. The commonest understanding must perceive at once that there is a great disproportion between the size of the pie and the quantity of berries used in its composition; and then the question naturally arises, how was this monster pie baked? Certainly it was never cooked in an ordinary utensil of domestic cookery. The only inference then to be drawn, was, that it was baked in the rusty end of some dilapidated steamboat boiler.

Again, in the *Islander* of the 22nd inst., there is another notice of a "Picnic to Blueshank," which describes in glowing colours the beauties of that famous locality: such as "green fields, limped streams, and rural groves." It is scarcely possible for the most gloomy imagination to conceive a more gloomy place than this same Blueshank; for if miles and miles of dreary and stoical looking rampikes and weather beaten stumps, relieved by stunted and melancholy looking patches of blueberry bushes and stagnant pools, constitute beautiful rural scenery, then Blueshank can lay claim to the most romantic scenery. It is also stated that the ladies emulated the gentlemen in swinging to the tree tops. Surely if Mr. Ings is at all conversant with the fashions, he must have seen the absurdity of such a thing; for the present expansive style of skirts would render such feats simply impossible. The fact is, John has been sold in both instances by some rascally scribbler. It is a lamentable fact that there are scribbling rascals in every community, who are ever ready to play upon the credulity or ignorance of such stupid publishers as the present *Queen's Printer*. It is to the publication of such notices as these that the American press owes its unenviable notoriety, which drew down the severest censure of Charles Dickens and other eminent Englishmen. It is needless to say that there was no mammoth pie at the Bedeque Picnic, or that the last Picnic was not held at Blueshank. ROSCOE.

Summerside, July 25, 1859.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR.—Allow a citizen a corner of your paper for a word or two concerning things in general about the city. To begin with politics. Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon, lest the Liberals rejoice—the Wesleyans are "ready to burst" upon the Government. The Class-leaders of that sect lately waited upon the Leader of the Government, and solicited the office of Superintendent of Public Works for Mr. Alley. Another gentleman of that body made a similar application for himself. The Government, to avoid the embarrassment caused by those conflicting claims, appointed Mr. Lowe, an Episcopalian. Upon hearing this, a number of the Class-leaders congregated at a certain shop, and (*inter alia*) began to calculate the proportion in which public offices and money, under the present regime, are distributed among the various Protestant denominations; and horrible to relate! the figures on the slate showed that the Episcopals and Presbyterians enjoy the lion's share of the plunder, and that the Wesleyans are but a fraction better off than the very Papists. It was then ordered that the said calculations should be submitted to a full meeting of the Class-leaders in the vestry of the Methodist Chapel last evening. What further proceedings were taken upon the matter I know not.

Baron de Fleur's concert came off last night in the Temperance Hall, and I am in conscience bound to say, sir, that it was nothing very extraordinary. The Baron may be a good enough player, but his pieces, for his audience, were very injudiciously selected. I believe the majority of those present were dissatisfied with the performance, and some of the young fellows, in descending the stairs, very irreverently called the old gentleman *Baron de Humbug*. It is nonsense to be giving us Blue Noses Italian and German music, although it must be confessed some of us affect to be very much pleased with it. *Rule Britannia* and *Scots who hae* are the songs of patriots and freemen. *Rory O'More*, the *Sprig of Shillelah* and *Mavourna Deelish*, will be dear to every sound-hearted Irishman when German fiddle daddle is to be taken for what it is worth. The performer who will give us Irish and Scotch songs—lively jigs and sonorous strathspeys, will be the one to command a full house and give satisfaction. Why, sir, a round or two of *Lord McDonald* or *The Bould Soldier Boy* would set every one within its hearing beating time with hands and heels.

Perhaps your readers would like to know that a meeting of the new Board of Missions is to be held in the Central Academy on the 25th instant. The chair is to be occupied by Mr. Kenny, and the meeting to be opened by prayer by the Rev. George Sutherland; after which candidates for Schoolmasters will be examined, and such as display missionary talent and "evangelical" zeal will be licensed. Postponing further remarks, I am,

Yours, &c.,

LOUNGER.

Ch. Town, August 3, 1859.

Lot 8, West Cape, July 19th, 1859.

MR. ROBERT WILSON:

DEAR SIR:—We, the undersigned, having heard with deep regret your intention of shortly leaving this Island for St. John, New Brunswick, cannot allow you to depart without some testimony of the high estimation in which you are held by the members and others of the Church of which you have been the Pastor for a considerable time. We, dear Sir, admire the manner in which you have borne the trouble with which you have had to contend; and as we owe our existence, as a Church under God, to your continued and zealous exertions, we feel great pleasure in looking back, and in witnessing that your unwearied efforts in establishing, encouraging and supporting her through many troubles and difficulties at the outset of her career, have, under the blessing of the Most High, not been in vain. Allow us respectfully to tender our regard for your amiable partner and family, and accept of this humble tribute of our sincere appreciation of the benefit derived from your coming among us.

In conclusion, we unitedly wish you a safe passage to the place where your lot is cast, and devoutly pray that the great Head of the Church may there as here own you as one of his faithful stewards of his mysteries, and give many souls to your ministry in the Church of Christ.

Signed, on behalf of the Congregation generally,

WILLIAM D. GRIGG,  
ROBERT McDONALD,  
LEWIS WM. WICKETT,  
JOHN MCNEILL.

(REPLY.)

TO MESSRS WILLIAM D. GRIGG, ROBERT McDONALD, LEWIS WICKETT, AND JOHN MCNEILL.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—With feelings better felt than described, I have listened to your very kind and affectionate address. I can assure you that nothing can be more gratifying to my mind than to know that my feeble efforts to promote the interests of Christianity have been successful. I can say that my object has been the glory of God and the good of mankind. For this I have laboured, and I feel thankful that my endeavours have been appreciated by you. Allow me, dear Brethren, to express my heartfelt thanks to you for the very efficient manner in which you sustained me, at a time when—strained in circumstances, defamed in character, and ruined in prospects—I stood alone. Believe me, the remembrance of your unwavering attachment to me and hearty co-operation with me in my arduous labours, will ever command my warmest gratitude. I shall ever regard the period of my sojourn among you with the most unfeigned pleasure; and can only add my best wishes for your future prosperity in time and in eternity.

Mrs. Wilson unites with me in thanking you most cordially for your kind wishes in our behalf; and in conclusion I would remark, that if ever I have the privilege of being stationed among you, I will with joy return to meet you again; and if not, I hope to meet you in a better land.

May God bless you all. Farewell!

ROBERT WILSON.

holders to whom they had been issued in payment for their labour expended on the highway."

The discount on Warrants at that time is easily accounted for. Trade of all kinds had suffered great depression—there was no cash in circulation—persons who had money at their disposal had invested it in Bank stock—and the paper of some of the most wealthy merchants, who possess more property than the revenue of the country was worth, was difficult to pass and suffered as great a depreciation as ever the Treasury Warrants did. Besides, a little before this time last year the Warrants for the Road service amounted to double the sum voted for the same service this year, and consequently the amount thrown into the market being so much larger, there was a proportionate difficulty in getting them cashed. But at the time the Liberal Government left office in April last, and for some months before, Warrants were readily cashed at par,—and the Government left in the Treasury, for their successors to spend, the handsome sum of five thousand pounds in them. With so much means, and a revival in trade, Warrants should not be at a discount now more than they were four months ago; but we understand they have been fluctuating from seven to two-and-a-half per cent. within the past two or three months.

We had marked for extract and commentary some other passages in the *Islander*, but want of space compels us to pass them over.

THE APPOINTMENTS AND DISMISSALS.

We give in our present No. a condensed list of the late appointments by the Government, and shall, in future, endeavour to keep pace with the *Gazette* in furnishing this interesting intelligence to our readers, although, judging from the numerous appointments lately made, we fear it will be no small tax upon our space. The appointments have, however, been so numerous, and the Commission of the Peace has been so extravagantly and unreasonably increased to reward the electioneering friends of the party in power—that we do not see where it is possible to make many more new ones.

We learn that the Guard at Government House Gate has been dismissed. The pretended motive assigned for this act will, of course, be a desire to save expense; but the poor fellows who were stationed at Government House Gate were, we believe, all or nearly all, "Irish Papists," and that was enough to secure their condemnation at the hands of the present self-styled "God-fearing Government," whose policy it appears to be to proscribe and hunt out of every petty office any one of the thirty-two thousand Catholics who form nearly one half our population—who have been, from their standing and trustworthiness, selected from time to time to fill various little trusts under the Government, and who have vainly indulged the hope that they would enjoy under a free constitution in this Colony the same political privileges as their Protestant fellow subjects. If any of them are base enough, however, to kneel down and worship the golden calf—to shew by their daily walk and conversation that they have not courage enough to call their souls their own, or profess a deferential respect for some of the most influential members of the Government—they may be allowed to retain some trumpery employment which brings them no emolument, or have their vanity gratified by getting their names enrolled on some commission or other which will bring them plenty of work, but no pay. For the offices which have good salaries attached to them the rule is—"No Irish or Scotch Catholic need apply."

With respect to the removal of the guard from Government House, the reckless citizens of Bogtown will be apt to remember the old saw, that "it is an ill wind which blows nobody any good," and rejoice at the opportunity afforded them for the display of their peculiar talents. As to there being an occasional raid on the wood pile, fencing, barn-doors, and other things that can make cozy firesides for the rowdies by the approach of winter, that must be regarded as a matter of course; and the inmates of Government House may consider themselves well off if their domestic quiet be not rudely disturbed by the lawless population at the west end chipping away the very pillars in the dancing saloon. We shall be sorry for the interruption thus given to the repose of Governor Dundas and his family; but as for the destruction of property, if it should have the effect of warning the Government against acting on the "penny wise and pound foolish" principle, the loss after all may not be so great.

DREADFUL STORM AND MELANCHOLY LOSS OF LIFE.

One of the most terrific gales, perhaps, ever experienced in this climate, at this season of the year, made its unwelcome visit to our Island on Saturday afternoon last. It was preceded by very heavy thunder, with lightning not remarkably vivid, but the rain rushed down in torrents, short and fitful, with a force and copiousness we have seldom seen equalled. Just as the storm seemed to abate, and the horizon began to brighten, an intensely violent tornado burst upon us with the fleetness of a flash of lightning, tearing up old and powerful trees as if they had been young saplings, shaking others together like reeds, and releasing several vessels from their moorings at the wharfs. But it is melancholy to relate that the ravages of the storm were not confined to the land, but produced fatal effects on the water in our vicinity. A boat in which were two young lads named John Walsh and Bernard McGear was swamped or upset a short distance from the Ferry Wharf, and if it had not been for the promptness and activity of Capt. Johnston, of the Ferry Steamer, both would have been lost. On seeing the accident he jumped into his own boat, and succeeded in rescuing McGear from a watery grave, but before he could reach the other lad, he sunk and perished. He was only 15 years old, and was a son of Mr. Thomas Walsh, master mariner, of this place. His body was not recovered until this morning, although a diligent search had been made for it on Saturday and Sunday.

Another boat in which there were several boys, was swamped off Messrs McGill's wharf. The boys, finding themselves unable to manage her, jumped overboard, and all succeeded in reaching the shore except a lad named William Wann, only about 11 years old, who had not strength enough to breast the waves, and was snatched away within sight of his companions, who had no power to assist him, although his head was out of water and his feet touching the bottom when his strength failed him. His body was found on Saturday evening.

But the most melancholy casualty we have to relate, as one of the results of this storm, is the death of Frederick Goodman, Esq., and a young woman named Ann Maloney, a