

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., AUGUST 30, 1858.

THE INDIGNATION MEETING.

THE public meeting which was convened in Charlottetown on Wednesday last, at the instigation of a small faction in this city who are opposed to the Government because they are not allowed to enjoy the sweets of office—will long be remembered by the Liberals as resulting in one of the most signal defeats ever inflicted upon their adversaries. Everything was done which ingenuity and perseverance could effect to secure a monster gathering in support of the Opposition. The machinery of the Alliance was kept at work unceasingly. The black coated gentry laboured like beavers, and lashed their flocks into such a fever by furious appeals to their fanaticism, as to make their absence from the meeting a thing almost impossible. There was, indeed, a monster meeting—the largest we have ever witnessed in this Island; but we cannot congratulate the Tory parsons nor their prompters of the Alliance, on the getting of it up. Several days before the meeting took place, they began to perceive that they had resolved upon a rather hazardous experiment—they began to learn, to their mortification, that they had no more right to be considered the inhabitants of this County than the few tailors of Tooley street had to designate themselves the people of England; and they would, if they could, have gladly abandoned the project of discussing politics anywhere, except in some hole-and-corner place where their opponents would have no chance of answering them; or in the barred and bolted room of the Unholy Alliance, where even Hatch is scarcely privileged to listen at the key-hole, after wasting his breath in their service; or from pulpits around which ignorant and gaping fanatics delight to cluster. In short, it was whispered that the Tracadonians, and the Newtonians, and the Millvilians, and the Monaghans, and all the rest of the "Boys" to whom we made gentle allusion in a late No., would most certainly give the fight of their countenances to the call which the Sheriff made upon them, and those who asked the Sheriff to make the call did not want them to come. The Tories affected to believe, and insolently proclaimed the belief, that riot and bloodshed would occur if they were allowed to attend; and the Chief Magistrate of the City took upon himself the unnecessary trouble of addressing the Lieut. Governor of the Colony on the subject—showing, in his own way, how the public peace might be disturbed by the presence, at the meeting, of the Irish settlers of the County, whom he was pleased to stigmatize as an "ignorant and very excitable people," and asked His Excellency to call upon the High Sheriff "to provide himself with a sufficient force of special constabulary," to put down the lawless proceedings that were apprehended from the Irish inhabitants of the County.

We are not now inclined to enter into a discussion on the merits or demerits of Mr. Haviland's letter to the Governor, and His Excellency's reply. We need only say that we feel highly flattered by the importance which he attaches to our humble lucubrations in this journal. We did always believe that they were diligently read by every one in the Island who can read, and by none more eagerly than our opponents; but we never believed they had the power to stir up a little rebellion in the country, and to justify a grave remonstrance from the Mayor, and an appeal to high authority in condemnation of our publication, when it is well known that the only power to which we are amenable, as a public journalist, is public opinion or the law of the land. If his Worship the Mayor apprehended disturbance from the attendance of certain portions of the inhabitants of this County, he should have remonstrated with his friends of the Alliance—rebuked their imprudence for calling a meeting of the whole County, and if he thought a constabulary force were necessary, to call upon them to do duty as amateur peace officers.

In this very unnecessary proceeding we have no doubt that the Mayor was mainly influenced by the clamour of those about him. The Opposition were anxious to frame some excuse for what they believed to be the inevitable failure of their project. They wanted a public expression of indignation against the Government; but they perceived, when it was too late, that the indignation was likely to be loudest and strongest against themselves; and they sought to hide their disappointment and chagrin under a simulated alarm of expected disturbance. The *Protector*, always ready for mischief, did its best to create a panic; and on the very morning of the meeting, croaked in dolorous tones about the riotous proceedings that did not occur, and the deluge of human blood that nobody in his senses expected to witness. The Sheriff was asked to swear in a gang of special constables; but this he firmly and wisely declined, having no funds at his disposal to pay such persons, and knowing that their presence would rather serve to irritate the multitude than keep them in subjection to the law. He relied on the peaceable disposition of the people for the preservation of order, and his reliance was not misplaced.

A few minutes after twelve o'clock the Sheriff ascended the platform, erected by his order for the purpose, and proceeded to organize the meeting, by reading the requisition addressed to him, as well as the correspondence which passed between the Mayor and the Lieut. Governor, above referred to; and he concluded with a few well timed observations, expressive of his confidence in the orderly disposition of the people assembled. None of the Opposition being present to open their budget of grievances against the Government, the Hon. Mr. Swabey proceeded to address the meeting on the subject of the dismissal of Messrs. Owen and Desbrisay, as the meeting was avowedly called to take that matter into consideration; and feeling satisfied that the requisitionists would not make the people acquainted with the correspondence which had taken place on the subject, he read the principal part of it, and commented on it as he went along. While he was speaking, the Hon. Messrs. Palmer and Gray, H. Haviland Esq., J. Longworth, Esq., and other leading persons in the Opposition, took their stand upon the platform; but in a few minutes Col. Gray was seen to leave it, and almost immediately after he was noticed coming up Queen-street at the head of about a hundred of the Belfast people, who had just crossed the ferry, brimful of pious zeal which had been infused into them by the political parson of Belfast, and who were duly instructed, and prepared by the possession of fire arms, to take their part in any fight they might be able to provoke—knowing as little of the objects of the meeting as if they had just stepped from on

board an Emigrant ship, fresh from the Isle of Skye—not troubled in the least about Mr. Owen's or Mr. Desbrisay's loss of office, of whom probably most of them had never heard at in Greek as in English for all they understood of either, no matter what might be the subject of the learned discourse. As soon as they got abreast of the Sheriff's platform, they signified their possession of human voices of some sort by making a horrible din, intended no doubt for a cheer, but the yell and the howl predominated. A shout of defiance from the multitude assembled in front of the platform—who were numerous enough to sweep the Belfast men into the river—soon convinced the intelligent disciples of Parson McKay that a repetition of their insolence and braggadocio would not be good for their health, and they had just cunning enough to betake themselves to a quiet position about two or three hundred yards off on the opposite side of the street,—order was restored—the chivalrous Colonel resumed his stand upon the platform, looking as jolly, though a little blown, as if he had just emerged from a Caffre fight or a Dublin riot with an unbroken skin—while Mr. Swabey proceeded with and finished his speech.

The Colonial Secretary next addressed the meeting, going into work of this kind, as he usually does, without gloves—dealing out, to the edification of his numerous auditory, unmerciful blows against the opponents of the Government, under which they exhibited the most pitiful contortions. They withstood the painful ordeal as long as flesh and blood could stand it. They saw that, by calling such a meeting, they had put a rod into the hands of their opponents wherewith to whip themselves. There was no sympathy for them in the crowded assemblage. The Belfasters continued to keep a respectful distance—other followers also kept aloof—the only course open to them was to beat a retreat; and thinking that discretion was the better part of valour, they leaped and ran from the Sheriff's platform in a body.

By this time they had a little stage erected for themselves, the construction of which was going on from an early hour in the morning. It had the southern corner of the Old Court House for its support—the windows of that building were conveniently opened, into which they could dodge in case of an emergency; and here, with all the civic authorities around them, they valiantly took their stand. It was a pleasant place for a quiet go at speech-making, and for an hour or two they improved the occasion. The Belfasters instantly patronised the Opposition stage—the fare was cheap—the intellectual garbage was served out unsparingly; but not being used to the viands, and their digestion bad, it is believed they did not profit by the entertainment.

Meanwhile the Sheriff's meeting went on with its proceedings in the most orderly manner. Mr. Coles's speech was followed by several others, and two resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously. The first was moved by Donald McIsaac, Esq., and seconded by Malcolm Forbes, Esq., and is as follows:—

*Resolved*, That this meeting highly approve of the act of the Government in discharging Messrs. Owen and Desbrisay from the offices they held in the Post Office; and deprecate the conduct of a party who, having failed through the constitutional means lately afforded them by a general election, to overturn the Government, endeavor to intimidate or prevent the Executive from exercising their constitutional right in conducting the public affairs in accordance with the principles of Responsible Government.

Wm. McGill, High Sheriff, Chairman.

The second resolution was proposed by Robt. Hutcheson, Esq., and seconded by John Trenaman, Esq., and is as follows:—

*Resolved*, That this meeting view with disgust the unwarrantable and groundless attacks made in the *Islander* and *Protector* newspapers on His Excellency Sir Dominick Daly, Her Majesty's Representative in this Colony.

Wm. McGill, High Sheriff, Chairman.

After these resolutions had been agreed to, without a dissenting voice, at a meeting of about three thousand persons, a vote of thanks was passed to the High Sheriff for presiding over and conducting the meeting in the orderly and peaceable manner by which it was distinguished—Mr. Trenaman being then in the chair—cheers were given for the Queen, for His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, and for the Hon. Mr. Coles and the other members of the Executive Council. Stephen Swabey, Esq., then proposed that the meeting should form themselves into a procession and proceed to Government House, to shew to His Excellency in person the high sense entertained of his able and impartial administration of the Government. The suggestion was received with the most rapturous applause, startling and bewildering the Opposition meeting, who suspended their displays of oratory in utter amazement, while the procession formed and proceeded in regular order to Government House. The procession was the largest we have ever witnessed in this Island. The rear rank had scarcely passed the corner of Apothecaries' Hall, when the front rank fyled off on Government House grounds. Having all assembled in a crowded mass upon the lawn, and in the avenue, and in every available space about Government House, the welkin was made to ring with cheers that might have been heard for miles off, for Her Majesty the Queen, and her honoured Representative in this Colony. As soon as the cheering had subsided, His Excellency presented himself on the steps of the front entrance to Government House, when he was again hailed with enthusiastic cheers, and when silence was restored, His Excellency spoke as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—I do not pretend to misunderstand the object of this demonstration. I believe it is intended as an expression of respect and confidence; and I beg you to accept my very sincere thanks. I have had, many times during my administration of this Government, cause to admire and applaud the loyal and peaceable disposition of the inhabitants of this Colony. Your conduct to-day furnishes an additional proof of your respect for the laws, which it is the duty of us all to obey, and of your unshaken attachment to the gracious Sovereign who reigns over us, and whose sway is exercised in such a manner as to secure the happiness and prosperity of all her subjects. I have always considered, and borne testimony to the fact, that the intelligence of the people of this Island will ever be the surest guarantee for their loyalty to their Sovereign, and their respect for the constituted authorities of the country; and while they maintain this high character, as I am confident they will, and if ever I entertained any misgivings on this point your conduct to-day would remove them—Prince Edward Island must occupy an enviable position amongst the British American Colonies, and should and will be permitted to enjoy all the advantages which free institutions confer. For myself I will only say, that I have endeavoured to discharge my duty faithfully and impartially on all occasions. Your appearance here to-day convinces me that in doing so I have merited your approval. I hope this mutual confidence will continue; and in parting with you, I have only one favour to ask, and that is, that as your conduct heretofore has been praiseworthy in the highest degree—as you have hitherto at all times respected the law—you will continue to do so, and suffer not the demon of discord, nor any amount of provocation to succeed in disturbing the harmony of your meeting and tarnish the

principles you have assembled to uphold. It is not my intention to enter upon a discussion of the circumstances in consequence of which you have been called together. These, I have no doubt, have received your full consideration. It now only remains for me again to thank you for your manifestation of good will towards me, and to express my confident hope and assurance that you will return to your homes in the same orderly and cheerful spirit in which you assembled."

Several times during the delivery of this short address His Excellency was interrupted by long continued and vociferous cheering, which was kept up for some moments at its conclusion. Three hearty cheers were then given for Lady Daly and the other members of His Excellency's family, after which the procession reformed, and returned in fyle four deep to the Market Square.

The meeting having been re-organized at the north-western front of the Colonial Building, a Committee—consisting of Robert Hutchinson, Stephen Swabey, John Trenaman, John Rigg, and H. J. Calbeck, Esquires—was appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency, to give due utterance to the sentiments of respect and confidence entertained by the assembled inhabitants towards His Excellency. In a few minutes the draft of this Address was submitted and agreed to with acclamation. It was presented to Sir Dominick on the following day, and is hereto annexed, with His Excellency's answer:—

To His Excellency Sir Dominick Daly, Knight, Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the inhabitants of Queen's County, in public meeting assembled, respectfully approach your Excellency with an unfeigned expression of our loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's throne and person, and of our unbounded respect to your Excellency as Her Majesty's worthy representative.

We desire to express our entire confidence in the ability, impartiality and integrity with which your Excellency has administered the Government of this Colony for the past four years; and we are confident that, surrounded as you are by a grateful, loyal, contented and peaceable class of Her Majesty's subjects, you will continue to administer the Government so as to secure the continuance of our admiration and respect, and to promote our happiness and prosperity.

We beg to include in our good wishes for your Excellency personally your esteemed lady and family, whose health and happiness shall always be an object of our earnest solicitude.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN:

I thank you for the cordial expression of the loyalty and attachment to our beloved Sovereign with which I believe you to be animated, and for the very gratifying terms in which you allude to my administration of the Government of this Island for the past four years.

With regard to the future, I have no difficulty in assuring you that it is my fixed determination not to permit any circumstance to deter me from the impartial discharge of my official duties—a course which has elicited this expression of your good opinion and confidence.

In begging you to accept my acknowledgments on behalf of Lady Daly and my family, I can assure you with much sincerity that they fully participate in the desire I have ever entertained for the promotion of harmony, and the social happiness of every class of the inhabitants of this island.

D. DALY, Lt. Governor.

We are unable, from want of space, to comment further than we have done, at any length, on the results of this great indignation meeting, by which our adversaries hoped to bring confusion and embarrassment on the Government. They must be convinced, notwithstanding all their efforts and clamour, that the tide of public opinion in this County, which they vainly imagined was their stronghold, has set in strongly against them. At the meeting on Wednesday they could not muster over a thousand followers, while there were at least three thousand opposed to them. Their precipitate desertion of the Sheriff's platform, which they had caused to be erected for their accommodation, must be taken as their own confession of weakness; and their false and insolent outcry about violence and insubordination, has received a cutting rebuke from the orderly and peaceable manner in which the Sheriff's meeting was conducted. It is a well known fact that the Belfasters came armed with pistols, which they had not the hardihood to discharge until they were safely landed on the other side of the ferry, when the beer and biscuit supplied to them, at the expense of the Obstructives, gave them a small modicum of Dutch courage; while it is equally notorious that in a certain store in Charlottetown there was a stack of axehandles and stielks piled up for the use of the Obstructives, to be called into requisition the moment they had the slightest pretext for a row. The forbearance and the peaceable disposition of the Liberals foiled them in their diabolical designs. They have been thoroughly beaten by moral force, and we think that a long time will elapse before they can muster audacity enough to challenge such another exhibition of their weakness.

We give below the correspondence which passed between the Mayor and the Lieut. Governor, in reference to the article in the *Examiner* on the subject of the late meeting, and to which we have above referred. We shall give in our next No. a report of the principal speeches delivered at the Sheriff's meeting:—

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN,  
23d August, 1858.

Sir,—On my return from the country, on Saturday last, my attention was directed to the leading article in the *Examiner* newspaper of the 16th inst., to which article I beg leave to call your Excellency's notice, and respectfully to submit that the language in which the same is couched is evidently with the design of encouraging the persons therein alluded to, to assemble in Charlottetown on Wednesday next, for the purpose of riot and disorder. That such encouragement, coming as it does from a journal owned and edited by the Queen's Printer, will have the effect of bringing together a number of ignorant and very excitable people, I cannot for a moment doubt.

Under these circumstances, I have considered it my duty to state to your Excellency, that the Police force of the city is altogether inadequate to suppress any tumult or riot that may be the consequence of the invitation held out in the *Examiner* by the Queen's Printer; and I beg to submit to your Excellency the propriety of calling upon the High Sheriff of the County to provide himself with a sufficient force of Special Constabulary, in case of any emergency.

I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of the newspaper containing the article to which I have referred, for your Excellency's information.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your Excellency's  
Most obedient Servant,  
T. H. HAVILAND, Mayor.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
24th August, 1858.

Sir,—I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to inform you that prior to its receipt, and so soon as His Excellency was made aware that a meeting had been convened by the High Sheriff, he caused the attention of that officer to be directed to the consideration of sufficient means for the preservation of order, and His Excellency cannot doubt that the civic authorities will co-operate with the High Sheriff to that end.

His Excellency refrains from commenting upon the imputed motives or conduct of the press on this or upon any occasion, believing that the law of the land and public opinion supply the best means for its regulation and control.

I am further to add that His Excellency refrains from expressing any opinion at present on the wisdom or prudence of a proceeding which appears to have excited some alarm; and that he would still faintly believe that the good sense, moderation and mutual forbearance of all parties will enable him to testify as hitherto to the peaceable conduct of this community.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
GEORGE COLES, Col. Secretary.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM EUROPE.

THE English Mail was received here on Friday last, the principal part of the news by which we give in our present No., as well as some intelligence received by arrivals at New York of an earlier date.

General Sir W. F. Williams, of Kars, came passenger on the Steamer to Halifax, and was received with every manifestation of rejoicing by his admiring countrymen in that city.

Our files, received by the last Mail, present features of a gratifying type, whether regarded from a national or cosmopolitan point of view. The progress which has been achieved by British arms in the suppression of the Indian mutiny, is, we consider, not so much matter for congratulation on the immediate part of the army engaged in its suppression, or of the country which sent it forth, conquering or to conquer, as a triumph of intelligence over superstitious ignorance, civilization over barbarism, christianity over heathenism, liberality over intolerant exclusiveness,—in short, of mind and all its modern acquisitions over the dark mists of centuries of blind and ignorant superstition. That the neck of the rebellion is broken—that the scattered fragments of the once united rebel forces can never reassemble in any considerable number, sufficient to justify the application of the means heretofore necessary to quell their mutinous proceedings—is now placed beyond a doubt.

It now but remains for a nation which has shown so convincingly what it is capable of achieving in the field, to manifest its ability in the Cabinet; and if the statesman shall approve himself as competent as the military servant of the empire, we may do hope that this mutiny, so startling in its inception—so shocking in its progress, and so effectually extinguished—will prove the basis, though truly a rough one, of a better future for British India, and for the cause of civilization and enlightenment, social, political and religious, throughout the vast peninsula.

The visit of Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, by invitation of the Emperor of the French, to witness the inauguration of the gigantic port and fortifications of Cherbourg, has transpired as the best friends of the best interests of Europe could desire. The cordiality of the reception with which our Sovereign and her Consort were received by the ruler of the mighty empire of France—the free utterance of amicable sentiments towards Great Britain with which he proclaimed his wishes for the individual happiness of his guest, and his hopes that the united nations might long continue to cultivate feelings of mutual esteem and friendship—followed, as they were, by the concise, yet admirable reply of Prince Albert—have done much to allay the feeling of irritation to which the prosecution and somewhat energetic completion of the works at Cherbourg had given rise on the other side of the channel.

We have to congratulate our readers on the fact of the receipt of the first trans-Atlantic telegraph, which we publish to-day, and for which, as for many other favours, we are indebted to the proprietors of the News and Exchange Rooms.

Now, since America is in direct communication with Europe, it would be an indelible disgrace if the people of this Island should, by the manifestation of a spirit of apathy, allow those zealous caterers of public intelligence, the proprietors of the above named rooms, to bring their really useful and necessary institution to an abrupt termination for want of adequate support. This, however, is not unlikely to be the case, unless more active and extended patronage be afforded them than has hitherto met the endeavours of Messrs. Hyndman & Longworth in their praiseworthy efforts to elevate the character of Charlottetown, by the establishment of a Reading and Exchange Rooms. And now since the necessity, or at least the desirableness of having the European news here as soon after it shall have been received in America over the oceanic wire, will be universally admitted,—and as an equally universal admission will be accorded to the statement that private enterprise is inadequate to procure it, we call on all good men and true to rally round the Reading Room, and place the proprietors in a position to give practical effect to the requirements of the community.

THERE was one statement in the *Protector's* leading editorial of Wednesday week, under the caption, "the rule of equity," which escaped our notice last Monday when commenting on it. Alluding to the Government's dismissal of Mr. Owen, the Sanctified editor states: "They have demanded of the late Postmaster General that he should give them three months' notice, and yet without any notice to him they have dismissed him." Now, the law relating to the Post Office department requires no notice to be given on either side. There was no understanding between the Government and Mr. Owen that the former was to give the latter notice of their intention to supersede him; nor did they require from Mr. Owen any intimation of that gentleman's desire to retire, whenever he thought proper to do so. The bond which he entered into with the Government is silent on this subject; and it stands most clearly that the late Postmaster was to hold his office during the pleasure of the Government. We merely notice this falsehood, because the editor of the *Protector* has put it very prominently before his readers. If we had to refute all his misstatements, our labour would never end.

We would recommend our friend of the *Charlottetown Examiner* to rub up his Shakespearian lore a little. What have *Oberon* and *Puck* ever done to him that he should, in his paper of the 9th instant, credit their good sayings to *Prospero* and *Ariel*?—*Halifax Morning Sun*.

Oberon we never liked; he quarrelled with his wife, and employed his congenial imp Puck in making any amount of mischief. Among other "devilish cantrips," he put an ass's head upon an unfortunate wight, whose greatest glory consisted in the accuracy with which he could quote passages from *Plays*.

We are indebted to the *Miramichi Gleaner*, of a late date, for the following useful hints to delinquent subscribers. We have quite as much cause to complain of the neglect and backwardness of those who consider themselves our friends as our worthy contemporary; and we hope our non-paying subscribers—who are far more numerous than we wish them to be—will read and inwardly digest the reprimand administered to persons of a like character in the neighbouring Province, just as earnestly, and we hope as effectually, as if it came directly from our own pen:—

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.—Next month the yearly subscription of a large portion of our readers terminates; and it is that season at which we require to lay in our stock of paper, and other material necessary for a long winter. This we can