

THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1843.

TRIUMPH AND EXPOSITION OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AS APPLICABLE TO THE COLONIES.

"Now the hurly-burly's done,  
Now the battle's lost and won."

In Nova Scotia, the Reformers or Advocates of Responsible Government, have, at length, obtained a signal and decisive triumph. Their persevering and consistent endeavours have, after a long, but never doubtful struggle, been crowned with complete success; and their enemies—the friends and supporters of arbitrary power—have been disgracefully routed, and shamefully driven from the field. It is true, that the Colonial Secretary does not altogether coincide in opinion with the Liberals, as respects the application of general principles; still, however, he has graciously and unhesitatingly conceded to them, as is observed by a correspondent of the *Eastern Chronicle*, every great principle for which they contended; and they have now Responsible Government, Party Government, and Government by Heads of Departments.

We heartily congratulate our brother Reformers in Nova Scotia, upon the successful issue of their political campaign, and upon the triumphant and happy position which they now occupy—a position whence, without let or hindrance to the prosecution of their liberal and patriotic views, they may dispense all the blessings of good government to a Province, long, like this Colony, the theatre of misrule, and the prey of an unprincipled and rapacious official clique or family compact.

Our love of freedom, and of good government is, we flatter ourselves, sufficiently strong, to induce us sincerely to rejoice with such as have reason to rejoice on account of their enjoyment of these social blessings, even although but slightly participating in them ourselves; but, on this occasion, we must confess that—confidently anticipating, for this Colony, the speedy concession of a boon, as great, important and beneficial, as that which has just been yielded to the Nova-Scotians,—we are, if we may so express ourselves, selfishly alive to their good fortune, and felicitate them thereon with more warmth of feeling, than, perhaps, we should have experienced, had we not looked upon their happiness as a certain augury or precursor of our own.

The Despatch of Earl Grey, the Colonial Secretary, to Sir John Harvey, in which he conveys his approbation of the views of the Liberal Party in Nova Scotia, is a most statesman-like document, free from all ambiguity, either studied or accidental, and harmonizing throughout with the liberal and enlightened spirit of the times. To the British Colonies, this document—freely, but authoritatively, proceeding from the Imperial Government—is fully of as much value and importance, as, to the three United Kingdoms, by themselves considered, was the celebrated declaration of the people's rights and liberties, by the English Parliament, in 1689, at the commencement of the reign of William III. and Mary. By this imperial edict—as, with very little, if any, impropriety, we think we may call it—it is declared that British Colonists shall no longer be treated, like aliens or bondsmen, in their father's house; but, as a legitimate progeny, shall, henceforth, be fully entitled to the free exercise and enjoyment of all the social and constitutional privileges, which—bought and earned by the blood and wisdom of their ancestors—ought, without diversion or interruption, ever to have been regarded as their rightful inheritance. We have a strong desire to be able to lay, before our readers, the whole of this highly important and very interesting document; but its length, which—our present curtailed dimensions borne in mind—is considerable, and the quantity of legislative matter which, every week, occupies so much of our space, preclude all reasonable thoughts of our doing so under existing circumstances. We have, however, made from it a selection of the most prominent passages; which fully elucidate the great principles of that system of Colonial Government which it recommends and authorizes, and plainly indicate the course to be pursued for its establishment, (when the aspect of affairs shall be favourable thereto,) in any Colony in which it does not yet prevail; and to these selections, accompanied by some observations of our own, intended to point out the real changes which will be effected, in the government of this Colony, by the introduction of the Responsible System, we hope to be able to give a place in our next number.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

Since our last No. the time of the House of Assembly has been taken up, principally, in attending to the usual routine business of the Session, and in carrying through their various stages, a few Bills of minor importance.

On Saturday, a Bill, placing an Embargo on Potatoes was passed,—a Bill to prevent the running, at large of Sheep and Goats in Charlottetown, and a Bill to regulate the standard weight of Grain and Pulse, were also passed on the same day. A Bill to regulate the measurement of Coal was introduced by Mr. J. Longworth, and read a first time.—A Committee was appointed, on motion of Mr. Rae, to prepare an Address to the Lieutenant Governor, asking for the Accounts of the Commissioners appointed last year to superintend the appropriation of Seed Grain.

On Monday the Coal Meters Bill was submitted to a

Committee of the whole House, and discussed.—Mr. Whelan presented a Petition from John Le Cart, certified by a number of the inhabitants of Cascumpeque, praying aid towards the completion of a Light House on the shore of Cascumpeque, commenced by Petitioner.—The hon. Speaker laid before the House a letter from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in reply to the Speaker's notification that a vacancy existed for the representation of the First District of Prince County, by the removal of the Hon. James Warburton. The purport of His Excellency's letter is—that he could not issue a new writ, as his doing so, would be contrary to the advice of the Crown Officers. Mr. Palmer made a few observations in reference to this letter—urging the House, to vindicate before the Imperial Government, the resolution they had adopted in reference to the seat of the Hon. Mr. Warburton, and intimating that an injustice might be done to the character of the House by suffering an *ex parte* statement to go before Her Majesty's Ministers. He concluded by moving for a Committee to search for precedents, which Committee was appointed.

The principal part of Tuesday was occupied in discussing a Resolution submitted by Mr. Palmer, to be made the groundwork of a Bill to provide for the payment of Legislative Councillors, resident over twenty miles from Charlottetown, for their services in Session. The Resolution, though apparently involving no party considerations, was steadfastly opposed by those gentlemen in the House who differ in political opinions from Mr. Palmer, and it was as steadfastly supported by his friends and allies. Mr. Duncan McLean, who is generally, of late days, found voting with Mr. Palmer, wanted to go a step further than the hon. mover of the resolution, and proposed, in amendment, to Petition the Queen to recompose the Legislative Council. Dr. Conroy, who is always wonderfully eloquent in his after-dinner speeches, seconded Mr. McLean's proposition in a very spirited address, in which he showed the manifold evils which result from not having a Council composed of persons from different parts of the country, who ought to be the servants of the House of Assembly, and not an intermediate Branch, as the House of Lords, in England, to decide between the Crown and the People. In the eyes of the learned Doctor it was highly dangerous to the interests and liberties of the subject to tolerate gentlemen in the Legislative Council, possessing considerable private fortunes, and persisting to live in and about Charlottetown. Mr. McLean's amendment was, however, very ungraciously received by his other political friends, who, while admitting it to be necessary, were unanimous in condemning it, because it would be found impracticable; and we did, at one time, seriously apprehend, that the amicability and brotherly love, which have so delightfully distinguished the companionship of our political adversaries, would be disturbed or endangered; but fortunately for the future harmony of the political residents of the Victoria, Mr. McLean, after a little palaver, was induced to withdraw his motion, and matters went on swimmingly for the remainder of the afternoon,—and gentlemen on both sides having fully and fairly let off their steam, allowed Mr. Palmer's resolution to go to a division, when it was carried 10 to 8. The Resolution, which was then reported to the House, is as follows:

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that it is expedient to provide for payment of the expenses of attending the Legislature, which may be incurred by all Members of the Legislative Council residing at the distance of twenty miles or upwards from Charlottetown.

Before the question was put, Mr. Whelan moved the following amendment, which was lost on a division of 8 to 10.

*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to adopt any measure, contemplating payment to Legislative Councillors—inasmuch as the principle has never been advocated or recognized by the members of the Legislative Council themselves—as it would entail an injudicious expenditure of the public money, and no proximate or perhaps remote advantage result from it; and as the measure has never yet been asked for by any portion of the people.

We have much pleasure in being able to congratulate the gentlemen "strangers" of the Legislative Council, on the fact of their having been made the subject of much eloquent declamation and denunciation on the part of the supporters of the Resolution,—their manner of conducting the debate shewed the features of "Snarlerism" in an admirable light.

MUTUAL INSURANCE AGAINST FIRE.

In pursuance of an announcement, a public meeting was held, in the Masonic Hall, to take into consideration the expediency of forming a Company for mutual insurance against fire. Mr. W. Heard was called to the Chair; and, after he had briefly stated the object of the meeting, he called upon Mr. Harris more fully to explain and point out the principles by which such a Company ought to be governed, and the advantages which would accrue to the members of it. This duty was ably performed by that gentleman, who concluded his exposition by reading a Code of Rules. After him, D. Reddin, Esq., Mr. Cross, and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting. A Committee was then appointed for the purpose of ascertaining how far the Scheme would be encouraged by the real owners (for such only are to be admitted

members) of Dwelling Houses, Out Houses, or other Buildings in Charlottetown. The principal object in view seems to be the effecting of a reduction in the rate of insurance. But, should the scheme go into successful operation, we think another great advantage will accompany it: We mean greater security of life and property, in general, against accidents from fire; for, as the parties insuring will be their own insurers, and liable to the risk, it is only reasonable to infer that they will exercise the greatest caution for the prevention of accidents by fire; and thus, the general risk, even amongst such as cannot become members of the Company, will be greatly diminished.

THE CURRENCY—THE POST OFFICE—AND THE LAND TAX.

In our summary of the Business of the House of Assembly, printed in another column, we omitted to mention that part of Tuesday was occupied in discussing several of the topics alluded to in the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session, the House being in Committee. These were the Currency, the Post Office, and the Land Tax.

Respecting the first, Mr. Palmer moved a resolution to the effect, that the Currency be defined and established by law. Mr. Rae moved an amendment, that the present rate be established, which was lost by a majority of one. There was very little discussion upon this subject—members generally displaying a positive reluctance to grapple with the details of so dry a question. We confess we were a little disappointed at finding the hon. Speaker and the member for Charlottetown fighting shy of it, and acknowledging their information, respecting it, to be very limited; especially as we were led to believe that the Currency was one of those subjects they had brought under the especial notice of Earl Grey, during their sojourn in England. We had felicitated ourselves with the hope, that we should find these gentlemen were become very able financiers, and that, with their increased knowledge of the subject (for we presumed their knowledge must have been greatly enlarged to enable them to lecture Earl Grey, and many of their former crude notions respecting the value of inconvertible paper, entirely abandoned) there would be very little left for other hon. members of the House to say upon the question, and that through the wisdom of these gentlemen, our monetary affairs would undergo a speedy and efficient reform; but, alas! with some people, knowledge is like a coy maiden—the more she is courted, the more obstinately she flies from them; and we are left to lament that success, in this respect, has failed to crown the efforts of the late Delegates.

As to the Post Office, a motion was made by Mr. Thornton for a Committee to prepare a Bill upon the subject. In speaking of this matter, the hon. Speaker censured the late Governor because he did not appoint a Commissioner to go to Canada, in conjunction with the Commissioners from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to represent to the Governor General the Postal arrangements, and other matters connected with the interests of the Colonies; and because Sir Henry Huntley himself went to Canada, and drew money from the Treasury to pay his expenses thither and back. Now, although it is not our particular province to explain or defend the acts of the late Governor, we consider it due to him and to the country to state, that he was commanded by the Colonial Minister to go to Canada, to lay before His Excellency, the Governor General, the general affairs of the Colony—that, although he drew the necessary sum to defray his expenses from the casual revenue, he had authority from the Home Government to replace the money out of the Crown Land Fund, which has since been put to the general credit of the Colony—that previous to Sir Henry's departure for Canada, he was ignorant of the fact that Commissioners were to be sent from the lower Provinces, and that as this Island had no material interest in the plan and construction of the great Railway, to which the attention of the Commissioners was to be more particularly directed, and the subject of the Post Office being the only one to challenge the consideration of a Commissioner from this Island, Sir Henry Huntley was competent to put Lord Elgin in possession of the most material facts connected with it—and that, on his return to the Colony, he transmitted a report from the Deputy Post Master General to His Excellency Lord Elgin; which report, in connection with the personal representations of the late Governor, must have answered, we presume, every useful purpose. Now these are the facts; and we have no doubt they will have more weight upon the public mind than the unsupported censure of the Speaker.

A Resolution to continue the Land Tax at the present rate, elicited some discussion. Mr. Rae proposed that the rate upon Wilderness Land be increased, and that the increase be effected by a separate Bill. A little discussion ensued upon this proposition, but it was finally dropped, and the resolution for the continuance of the old Tax, was adopted.

Notwithstanding the amount of original matter which we have crammed into our sheet to-day, we find that, in addition to some miscellaneous paragraphs of news, we are unable to give insertion to some short editorial articles; but which we will endeavour to insert in a supplementary sheet on Monday.