

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, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1847.

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THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1847.

THE NEW COUNCILLOR.

The Honorable JOHN MYRIE HOLL was, on Tuesday last, sworn in a Member of the Executive Council, in the room of the Honorable JOHN BRECKEN, lately deceased.

Mr. HOLL is likewise a member of the Legislative Council, and has often distinguished himself in that Body, by his active and well-educated mind, and by his liberal and statesman-like principles. His standing and respectability are sufficiently well known to preclude the necessity of remark on our part, or cavil on that of our opponents.

It was, indeed, supposed and expected that the late Mr. BRECKEN's seat would have been offered to a member of the Assembly on the liberal side, as there are at present no more than two members of the House at the Executive Board, and as the House have contended for the right of having at least three of its members in the Upper Branch. Now, we have no wish to discredit the claims of the Assembly—nay, we shall say, that we should feel it our duty to insist on the claims of the House being satisfied in this respect, if the system of Responsible Government had been conceded to this Colony; but as yet, unhappily, there has been no such concession; or, indeed, if it were not for the fact of our being on the eve of an important change in the Government, by the transfer of its administration from one Governor to another. But, situated as we are, it is better, perhaps, that such an expectation ought not to be realized—that the seat should, in fact, be filled by a gentleman who, from his residence in or near the Town, would have an easy access to the new Lieutenant Governor. Let us suppose, that, when Sir Donald Campbell will arrive in Charlottetown, he should find some of his Council removed at such a distance from him as not to be able to communicate with them, without incurring some considerable loss of time, and the consequence, in all likelihood would be, that such advice would be tendered, as, if acted upon, would prove prejudicial to the interests of the Liberal Party. Again, if it were found necessary to call a Special Council, it is not to be supposed that two gentlemen living at a great distance from town, could be got to attend it; and two votes being thus lost, a question or measure of importance might be destroyed by means of the majority which the opposite party could thereby employ.

It is asserted, by way of objection to this appointment—and the assertion comes from those who ought to be the last in the world to make use of it—that Mr. Holl, while in England, advocated Conservative opinions. We are not prepared to say whether this is true or false, but supposing it to be true, are we bound to infer, that, because he may have been a Conservative in England, he must repudiate every principle of Liberalism, on coming to a small colony where there are no such interests and objects as engage the attention of public men in the Mother Country? It often occurs—and we have known many cases in point—that gentlemen coming from England, imbued with high Conservative opinions, become the most indefatigable Reformers in the Colonies. The points of resemblance between the Colonial and the British Tory are few and indistinct. The former is best known by his voraciousness and selfishness—by a continual seeking after office, if out, and by a perpetual struggling to retain it, if in—contending that the principles which regulate the conduct of a Government at Home, are wholly inapplicable to a Government abroad—but oftener, indeed, giving himself little uneasiness about any principles at all, so long as he shall be permitted to hold his office. The latter views every act of an administration as the necessary consequence of some principle—he argues public measures with reference to constitutional doctrines and never

arrogates to himself a privilege or a right which he would deny to the poorest subject of the realm.

What shade of politics may have distinguished Mr. Holl in England, is not, however, the question here and now. We have to inquire what line of policy he has been known to advocate in this Island. The question which have more particularly engrossed the attention of our principal politicians, are, first—the Land Question; and second—the introduction of the Responsible System. With reference to the first, Mr. Holl, we have understood, will advocate any measure short of Escheat—be that measure purchase, reduction of rent, or extension of the leasehold tenure—any measure justified by prudence and moderation, and demanded by the wants and circumstances of the Colony. As to his views on Responsible Government, we have the most unequivocal proof that they are in accordance with the views of the Assembly, as declared through their address to the Imperial Government. Mr. Holl's name, it will be remembered, was amongst the first which appeared on the Address presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on his return from Canada. That Address contained a very marked expression of opinion favourable to Responsible Government; and the presumption is certainly very reasonable and just, that Mr. Holl concurred in the opinion therein expressed. On these two grounds, then, Liberals can make no objection to the appointment.

We can fully appreciate the value of the sneers and insinuations which have been indulged and are likely to be continued, by some of the friends of the old irresponsible Clique, in reference to this matter. Every species of opposition and of calumny will, of course, be employed by them against any appointment unconnected with their party. Under the circumstances, however, the present Councillorship indicates no retrograde movement on the part of the Lieutenant Governor. It is the placing of an office held by a gentleman, conscientiously, we believe, adverse to the Responsible System, in the hands of one who will give his talents and energies to its development, when once conceded.

To revert to the claims of the Assembly, it must be remembered that that Body has sustained no positive loss in the bestowal of Mr. Brecken's seat on Mr. Holl. The late Councillor belonged to the second Branch of the Legislature—his place at the Executive Board is given to one of the same body. Whilst the Honorable J. S. McDONALD held a seat in the Assembly, a due proportion of Executive power was enjoyed by the House. The retirement of that gentleman from the Legislature, and his retention of the Councillorship, lessened the Executive strength of the House. The seat in Council was given to Mr. McDonald, we believe, in consideration of his legislative capacity.

If we turn to England, we shall find that in the Queen's Ministry the greater number is selected from the Lords; the Commons have seven members in the Cabinet—the Lords have ten;—and, therefore, whilst we have no disposition to gainsay the claim of the Assembly in reference to this matter, we think it would be unreasonable and unjust to say that a principle of the Responsible System has been violated through the selection of Mr. Holl, when it is known that that gentleman belongs to the popular party. The selection was made without any special reference to the New System—happily, it will prove favourable to the adoption of that system.

One principle that ought never to be forgotten is—that every Minister of the Crown should hold a seat in either branch of the Legislature. The Minister who has no such seat, brings little or no strength to the Government—he is, in fact, a nondescript, a drag upon the Administration. Councillors who hold no seats in the Legislative Bodies should be taught the necessity of giving way to those who could bring support to the administrative policy where support would be most required,—and in doing so they would properly maintain their own dignity and serve the interests of the country.

View Mr. Holl's elevation in whatsoever light we may, we have at present no just grounds of dissatisfaction. Ere the elapse of many months—perhaps weeks—there is every reason to look for a dissolution of the present Council—and the People will be allowed, we may hope, an opportunity of once more declaring whether the Council ought to be constructed in accordance with the new doctrines of Colonial Government, or be composed of the same incongruous and clumsy materials by which it has been heretofore distinguished.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS.—NO MONOPOLY.

GEORGE BIRNIE, Esquire, has been appointed a Member of the Legislative Council, in the place of the late Honorable John Brecken. Mr. Birnie's appointment is a new accession of strength to the Reform Party in the Legislative Council—and, considering the talent and ability by which, as a Member of a former Assembly, he was distinguished, and the amount of experience and knowledge, relatively to the public affairs of this Island, which he has acquired through a long and useful career—we have no hesitation in pronouncing the selection of such a man for such a post, as highly advantageous to the public interests, and therefore gratifying to the people at large.

With Mr. Birnie in the Legislative Council, the Liberal Party in the Assembly can now calculate upon a good working majority; and we sincerely hope that the party in both Branches will discover their greatest strength and security against the attacks of the enemy, in a perfect identity of feeling and interest;—the popular party in the Assembly should consult and advise on all public measures of importance with those advocating the same line of policy in the Council: thus, they would be brought to feel their strength, and in relying the one upon the other, they could never be at a loss to foretell the issue of a public measure. In former times—before Sir Henry reformed the Council—for it has undergone, silently and steadily, such a reform as never has been carried into operation in any other Colony—that Branch was crammed with the creatures of Mr. Pope, whom he had no difficulty in whipping, like so many trembling urchins, into a complete submission to his mandates. In the pliancy of the Legislative Council—or rather in the helpless, spiritless, mesmeric state into which that celebrated Body had been thrown by the artifices of the conjuror—lay the secret of all Mr. Pope's success in the Assembly,—he had nothing to do but get his measures carried through the Lower House—the Upper had not courage or principle enough to refuse its sanction. Sir Henry Vere Huntley has happily, however, broken the wand of the Enchanter—the Council meets, *but no longer as the puppets of Mr. Pope.*

THEOPHILUS DES BRISAY, Esquire, has likewise been appointed Commissioner for issuing Treasury Notes, in the room of the late Honorable JOHN BRECKEN. Without any reference to political principles, Mr. Des Brisay is fully qualified for the discharge of the duties of this office. He held the situation of Assayer of Weights and Measures, which he also received from the present Lieutenant Governor, and which His Excellency, actuated by the very proper principle, that there ought to be no monopoly of office of profit, requested Mr. Des Brisay to resign, before conferring on him the place of Commissioner.

In the distribution of the four offices held by the Hon. Mr. Brecken, we have a striking manifestation of the Lieutenant Governor's disinclination to perpetuate the system of Monopoly which heretofore obtained, and to which some of the Government offices still furnish undisputable testimony. Reform in this matter was loudly called for, and it cannot fail to be gratifying to the feelings of Sir H. V. Huntley, to know that it is one which will ever command the grateful remembrance of the people. Had Sir Henry followed the example of his predecessors in the bestowal of official patronage, he