

The Examiner.

AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1850.

THE LATE GOVERNOR'S POLICY PRESENTED IN A NEW LIGHT.

The most remarkable production we have read for many days, is the second editorial in the last *Islander*, headed "the late Lieut. Governor and Responsible Government." The aim of this editorial is to show that Sir Donald Campbell was desirous of establishing Responsible Government—that he had dissolved the old House, that he had personally opposed Dr. Conroy and D. Maclean at their elections, because they were unfavourable to the introduction of that system—that, in short, he had practised the grossest deception, and evinced the deepest ingratitude towards the party who supported him, and lied for him in and out of the Assembly, in order to gratify his desire of establishing Responsible Government, and that he was defeated by the "blundering stupidity" of the Liberals, who ought to have been his coadjutors in the scheme. He describes Sir Donald as being anxious to realize the views of the present majority, and always ready "to slip in a word effectively against the late majority." Duncan professes to have known all this months ago; and if he did, what a mean contemptible fellow he must be, to have worn the livery of Sir Donald—and been his humble apologist and eulogist upon every occasion! He knew Sir Donald to be plotting the overthrow of the oligarchy, whom he is bound and paid to serve—to be paving the way for the removal from office of Messrs. Haviland, Smith, Hodgson, and the rest of the public functionaries; and the appointment of the liberals to their places—and yet he, Duncan Maclean, availed himself of every occasion to say, whilst Sir Donald was alive, what an excellent, sagacious, able, and prudent Governor he was!

If Mr. Maclean had really established his "premises," as he says he has, "that the late Lieutenant Governor was sincerely desirous of introducing Responsible Government," the conclusion would be, that his Excellency was a most infamous trickster—that the editor of the *Islander*, in not exposing his machinations, but on the contrary, giving him his support, was betraying the party for whom he writes, deceiving his readers, whom he has laboured to impress with the idea that Responsible Government would be a great curse to the Colony, and shewing that he himself had not common honesty and courage to speak out in the face of the Governor. If any other conclusion can be deduced from his vaunted "premises," we should like to see it. It would be impossible to put Duncan and his friends, the oligarchy,

in a more odious plight, than that in which his long rigmarole of an editorial places them.

Alluding, in the same article, to the offer made by the Governor to the Assembly, to establish Responsible Government, if the House would grant pensions to the amount of £400 Sterling, the *Islander* has the following curious remarks:—

"If it procured 'good government,' established 'the rights of the people,' and obtained 'Escheat,' it was surely money well laid out. The conduct of the Assembly in this matter instructs us that, notwithstanding all their agitation, vociferation and waste of time during the last four years, that they did not at bottom consider Responsible Government worth so much as one shilling sterling to each of their constituents. How much less it is worth in their estimation, we have no means of judging. But the plain fact of the matter is, they well knew Responsible Government to be an imposition, which could not long be concealed, and that at the end of four years those pensions, combined with OTHER RASCALITIES, would fall upon them with crushing effect."

Now, let the reader observe, that at one time the *Islander*, and all who patronize that precious receptacle of falsehood and stupidity, abused and black-guarded the Assembly for refusing those very pensions,—that at another time, the tune was changed, and the Assembly impudently denounced in the *Islander* (see an Elector's letters) for saddling their constituents with those pensions. Let it be further observed, that in the first sentence of the extract above given, it is stated, that if his Excellency's offer procured "good government," &c., the money—(that is, the pensions)—would be "well laid out," whilst in the last sentence of the same extract, "those pensions" are regarded as a rascality, as is evident from the use of the words "other rascalities."

If the present House of Assembly were as lavish of the public funds as were their predecessors, the pensions would have been voted, and Responsible Government established. The old Assembly did not scruple to vote £1000 of the public money—£500 as an increase to the Governor's Salary, and £500 for an Assistant Judgeship, for which the Colony is not, perhaps, a shilling better than before the vote was given. One hundred pounds more than was expended in bribing the Governor, who did not deserve the bribe, since, according to the *Islander*, he was the concealed enemy of the party who gave it; or one hundred pounds more than was expended on the disreputable job of making Mister Edward Palmer Solicitor General, would have met the demand for pensions. But the Assembly felt and still feel, that they would be acting the part of the unfaithful steward had they taken money from the pockets of their constituents to give for the enjoyment of an inalienable and acknowledged right. It would be no less infamous to set a price upon the air we breathe, than

to barter for a privilege of which all the intrigues and machinations of Governor and Oligarchy cannot permanently deprive us.

THE REVOLUTION IN HESSE CASSEL.

Papers from the other side of the Atlantic have, for several weeks past, noticed the progress of a revolution in Hesse Cassel—one of the smallest states of Germany—without, in all cases, giving their readers the slightest clue to the circumstances which have occasioned it. The great and important lesson which the people of that country are now imparting to the rest of Europe—and particularly to those who trust too confidently in the apparent weakness of a people to carry out their own despotic views—make their revolution a subject of the deepest interest to all classes and all countries. They have given the best practical illustration of the moral force principle of any other people in the world.

Hesse Cassel is one of the independent German Governments, and its prince or head is styled an elector. It is insignificant as regards size, but important from its position in the very centre of all the other states.—After having long suffered under a corrupt rule, the people took advantage of the ferment caused by the French Revolution of 1830 to obtain a reformed constitution. With this they were satisfied, and when the rest of Germany was convulsed in 1848, they abstained, as far as their own local position was concerned, from forcibly seeking any direct change. The reigning elector, however, was personally distrusted and despised, and abundant manifestations were conveyed to him of that fact. He was known to be plotting, as the tool of Austria and Bavaria, in favour of reaction; and chafing under the restrictions which the existing constitution placed upon his arbitrary desires, he looked for the interference of these powers to establish once more all the perfect enjoyments of a German despotism. To effect this it seemed simply necessary that the people should be provoked to such acts of violence as would allow him to follow the fashion of declaring a state of siege, and then, when all existing laws suspended, to deal with their future rights, in such a manner as might seem essential to the cause of despotism under the name of "order." He saw all the rest of Europe, and even as far as the expression of opinion could go, a large portion of the English population, sanctioning the wildest tyranny under the magic of that term, and he thought the time was come to take advantage of it. At the same time, also, there can be little doubt he had made complete arrangements with Austria, Wirtemberg and Bavaria, that they should hold troops at his disposal in case the resistance he

was about to provoke should unexpectedly exceed his own powers of repression.

The whole plan was so straightforward and so perfectly in accordance with what is going on in Europe, that it appears hard it should not have been successful. The project has failed, however, and the poor elector is the victim of circumstance. Instead of being at this moment a sort of small Emperor of Russia, he is a runaway at Frankfort, and without at present the least prospect of being able at an early day to share the fate of his brother potentates, the Grand Duke of Tuscany and Baden, and the Emperor of Austria; who, although forced to abscond in 1848, were soon enabled to return to wreak increased mischief on their subjects in revenge for their temporary mortification.

The whole of the short drama was soon concluded. At the commencement of his plans, the Elector appointed a Mr. Hassenpflug, who had been a professor of a Prussian university, and had just had the misfortune to be pronounced guilty of forgery by the court of appeals in his own city, to be the President of his Cabinet.—This was a plain beginning and the people of Hesse knew, from the character of the man, what was coming. Instead of convoking the Hessian Diet at the usual period, Hassenpflug contrived that it should not be called together until the last moment, and then merely for the purpose of demanding a vote of supplies. The Diet refused to make a blind grant, and insisted that proper estimates should be produced, and discussed in the usual manner. The Elector forthwith decreed their dissolution, and accompanied this decree by a notice that he should cause the taxes be collected, regardless of the absence of the constitutional sanction.

The chief members of the dissolved Diet, who had been constituted a committee by the general body, instantly declared the illegality of this proceeding, and applied for an injunction against it from the High Court of Appeal. Enraged at the cool but resolute attitude of the people, and seeing that no time was to be lost, Hassenpflug counselled the Elector to put a stop at once to this peaceful and legal resistance, by declaring the country in a state of siege. Accordingly this was done, although not a finger had been raised against any of the authorities. Hassenpflug believed, however, that an out outbreak would certainly be provoked by this bold step, and he therefore regarded it as the finishing stroke of his policy, Bavarian troops having at his instance been quietly assembled on the frontier, ready to march in on the first shot that was fired. To his utter dismay not a hand stirred in the country. The courts of law pronounced the proclamation of the state of siege to be illegal, and when soldiers were sent to execute the arbitrary orders that were issued against resisting individuals they