

learning and of genius have dignified the Council Board? Mr. Coles may not, perhaps, read Latin and Greek. How many of the present Councillors can translate a sentence from Tacitus—a verse from Sophocles? In what Colleges or Universities did they take their degrees? What progress have they made in the Arts and Sciences? What volumes or treatises have issued from their pens? I, by no means, seek to disparage the substantial acquirements and abilities which belong to some Members of the Council. In point of learning and talent Messrs. Goodman and Hensley have few superiors in the Colony; and it is gratifying to observe that these gentlemen are too well versed in the courtesies of life to cavil at the appointment of a gentleman who may not have attained to that standard by which patrician pride and shallow minded envy too frequently measure the qualifications of others. Among the public men of this Island, there is no lineal or ancestral superiority. An eminent position in society may become the reward of any man who has ability, enterprise and perseverance; and none but the besotted fool, or the malignant calumniator would deny these merits to Mr. Coles. He has done more by his ability and enterprise for the general improvement of his native country than any one of his political opponents—and in intellect and practical education he is not inferior to any of the shallow-pated grumblers who have displayed their own ignorance, in their insolent reproaches on his acquirements.

I have suffered these observations to banish from my remembrance the extraordinary logic which Mr. Conroy has resorted to, for the purpose of convincing the public that Mr. Rae has changed his political principles, because he has ceased to oppose the Government of Sir H. V. Huntley, and because, forsooth, two such men as Mr. James H. Conroy and Mr. Duncan McLean are leagued against him!! However, I trust to be able to give a few moments further consideration to the subject, in another letter; but, in the meantime, must wish Mr. McLean joy of the proffered alliance of Mr. Conroy.

REFLECTOR.

Queen's County, August 3, 1847.

THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1847.

A WORD FOR OURSELVES.

In submitting our first Number to the public, it will be reasonably expected that something like a development of our general views and intentions shall be offered.

We are aware, however, that it is easier, in times like the present, to commit ourselves in such an attempt, than to carry out to the full extent, the wishes of even the best of our friends; yet, we can have no hesitation in making known the general principles by which we propose to be guided, as we shall neither sail under false colours to flatter those in authority, or to deceive and cajole any class of our fellow subjects.

We shall begin, then, with the Head of the Government—Her Majesty's Representative—to whom, in common with all her liege subjects, we owe that loyalty which is reflected from the Queen herself, nor can we conceive, as many people who know better pretend to do, that the distinction is very wide between disloyalty to the Crown itself and disaffection to its Representative. But while we say this we assert, and, if need be, shall exercise the right of reviewing or canvassing the proceedings of the Lieutenant Governor and his Council, but this shall be done in such terms as are due to her whose servants he and they are.

We deem, however, that Her Majesty's present Representative is worthy of, and ought to receive the most cordial support and assistance of the Press and of the People, while he is engaged for their benefit manfully in endeavouring to deliver them and the future Lieutenant Governor of this Island from the Tyranny of a galling and oppressive Oligarchy, which has hitherto ruled with undisputed sway; and whilst

diffusing a due share of the little patronage which belongs to the Government amongst other parties than those who have heretofore exclusively engrossed it, and who, by themselves or their nominees, have occupied every office in the Colony. The Governor will receive our cordial support, too, in the just punishment of official delinquency, as well as when he turns a deaf ear to unfounded and malicious complaints.

As to those to whom our publication is avowedly adverse, while we will freely and most fairly arraign their public proceedings, we will never be induced—even by the example which is set us, or by the temptation to retaliation—to treat them with injustice and vulgarity; nor will we ever, to humiliate an adversary, degrade ourselves by the use of any of those mean and shameful expedients which disgrace public controversy. If we are, (as who is not?)—led astray by any false statement or representation, we shall deem it a sacred duty to afford just and proper explanation or denial. Indeed we have too many materials before us, founded in facts, to have any need of falsehood, or, what is as bad, to conceal or suppress the truth. Our columns will ever be at the service of those who labour in the cause of morality and charity, or who desire to promote religion in any manner devoid of controversy, which we hold, in our mixed population, to be more destructive than subsidiary to its interests, when pursued in a public Journal. As to personal controversy having no public object, we trust the public will excuse our endeavours to avoid being its vehicle.

We need hardly say that the interests of Agriculture and of the Tenantry will receive our most cordial assistance. Inseparable from this subject is the freedom of Election. We have recently witnessed attempts, too flagrant and too tyrannical, to controul the farming interests and the poorer country population in their choice of a representative—too open an attempt to bully them out of their votes by means of their necessities to suffer their rights to remain unasserted.

Independence in the exercise of the elective franchise, is of the highest importance to a civilized community: its protection against all violence, be it openly or covertly exercised, will be, of necessity, one of our duties.

To all those who advocate social and legal reform, we will give a place, without regard to party or person, being aware that wise institutions are the surest safeguards of personal and individual happiness, and the just administration of the law essential to freedom.

But above all, it shall be our duty to lend a hand in the destruction of that grinding monopoly of power and office which has too long prevailed among us, and the increasing aim of which is to exercise every power and distribute every place to coerce the Government and to enslave the people. We shall have to treat of Responsible Government, and how far it is applicable to our local condition and circumstances. And this will lead us to severe reflection on the disgraceful system, now in use in the British dominions, nor, we believe, any where else, of men remaining in office when they have not only ceased to concur in the acts of the Head of the Government, but are openly employed in arraigning his person and subverting his authority. There is a meanness in this which we would fain hope has no precedent elsewhere.

These will be the leading guides and landmarks in our Editorial Journey; and we trust there will be still room for lighter labours in general literature, for European news, and whatever occurs that is interesting either to our local prospects and means of improvement, or which may find favour with those who eschew politics and controversy.

THE COUNTER PETITIONERS.

In the *Islander* of Friday we notice a short editorial on the subject of a Petition, which a little knot of Charlottetown Shop-keepers have got up, praying Her Majesty not to continue Sir H. V. Huntley in the Government of the Colony longer than the allotted time, and of which the expelled Coouncillor and the Member for Charlottetown are to be the bearers. We have not seen this interesting Document, and therefore can make no remarks upon it. But having some little knowledge of the parties who have given it birth, we have no hesitation in believing it to be an unclean thing, and will suggest to our readers in the country the propriety of keeping on their guard against it. The *Islander* states that it originated at a meeting held in one of the public houses in Charlottetown, over, we suppose, a glass of brandy and water. The meeting was not a public one—no persons being admitted but those who could drink—"Confusion to Sir Henry, and success to the Delegates!" The Tavern Conspirators numbered, we are credibly informed, about fourteen. They deserve, indeed, the thanks of the community for taking such ineffable pains to regulate the concerns of the State!

THE DELEGATION.

"HAMLET—Ay, marry, why was he sent into England?
"I CLOWN—Why, because he was mad: he shall recover his wits there; or, if he does not, 'tis no great matter there."

SHAKESPEARE.

We learn from the *Islander* of Friday, that the Hon. Edward Palmer and Joseph Pope, Esq., will proceed to England by the next Steamer, to inform Her Majesty—provided they be permitted to see her—of the absolute necessity of removing Sir Henry Vere Huntley from the Government of this Island, and the placing it in the hands of the latter Gentleman. It is a great comfort to find that these inveterate enemies are reconciled. Meekness, forbearance, and brotherly love, are not the obsolete virtues we deemed them to be, at least with the worthy gentlemen we have named. It is rumoured, although we do not put entire confidence in the rumour,—that both Delegates shall occupy the one berth. Indeed, it would be a pity to separate them. An Israelite in London—so it is said—has been instructed to have two Court Dresses in readiness. For the credit of the country, it is to be hoped, the best fit and latest fashion will be procured, and not too much worn!

Tom Thumb and Jenny Lind have engrossed the attention of the Cockneys so long, that, by the time the Delegates will arrive in England, a new exhibition will not be unacceptable to them. If they have any liberality at all, they will give sixpence a man to see a live Speaker of a Colonial Assembly.

It has been hinted that the Hon. Mr. Palmer will resign his seat at the Council Board. The thing is perfectly absurd. In Nova Scotia, Canada, or England, such a measure would not only be thought of, but enforced. In this Colony, however, the plan is—to oppose the Governor whenever you like, and, if you happen to be suspended, make a great cry about the harshness of the proceeding. The glory of martyrdom awaits you then. The aspirants to public offices in other Colonies would learn an important lesson here, provided they are blest with easy consciences.

EDUCATION IN P. E. ISLAND.

There is no subject which shall more strongly attract our attention in our career as a public Journalist, than the intellectual and moral improvement of the growing population of these Provinces. We cannot devote the power of the Press to an object more momentous, than that of fostering and encouraging the desire, now beginning to be generally felt, for the extension of education to the poorest and remotest settlements within our borders. We shall probably hereafter devote more space than we can at this time spare, to inquire how far we have been behind our neighbours in the cause of general education. We can, however, add, that in our own organized system of public instruction, we have lately had satisfactory evidence of judicious and vigorous administration, and able performance of the most difficult and delicate task which is committed to human hands. On Tuesday last we attended the half-yearly examination of the Charlottetown District School, under the tuition of Mr. John Le Page, in Kent Street.