

# The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

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(From a Correspondent.)

## GREAT LIBERAL DEMONSTRATION! TRUE LIBERAL MEASURES TRIUMPHANT!!

A Meeting of Electors was held at Princetown Royalty on the 20th current. The Meeting was summoned by advertisement; and as it was well known that the late measures of the House of Assembly were to be canvassed by some of the Members, a great number of people assembled. It was computed that nearly 400 people were present. Hon. G. Coles, Messrs. Rae, Montgomery, McLean and Clark, M. P.'s., were present, having been invited to attend.

Thomas McNutt, Esq., being called to the chair, briefly addressed the Meeting, he and a few others being anxious to hear from their Representatives explanations of several matters, which had transpired at the House of Assembly during the past Session, and also wishing to hear something respecting political movements lately on foot, had taken the liberty of calling this Meeting. They had done so with the full approbation of the Royalty Members, and also with that of Mr. Rae, who was, in fact, one of their Representatives; also, as many of the Electors of the Royalty had votes in the County. He was happy to see that they had been favored with the company of Messrs. Coles and McLean, in addition to that of their own Members. He concluded by inculcating the necessity of good order and harmony, for, if they were not unanimous, they could at least be peaceful.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Meeting had been called with his consent, and indeed, he might say at his request, as many stories have gone abroad respecting him, and his conduct as a Member of the House of Assembly. He had heard it stated that he had lost the confidence of his constituency, and he wished to meet them face to face, in order to discover whether it were the case. If so, he would at once take means for severing the connection. Many persons were assembled, but he referred only to his constituents, as he was to be judged by them and them only. Such statements had met him 40 miles from home, and he wished the persons who had set them afloat to come forward now and repeat them, as he considered it very uncourteous for people to run about the country spreading stories to his disadvantage.

Mr. G. Beirsto disclaimed the knowledge of any such reports; but as it seemed such things had gone abroad, he hoped the propagators of them would now have the manhood to come forward and substantiate them if they could. In that case Mr. Montgomery would have an opportunity of disclaiming them, if false, or if he have really deserved ill of his constituents, let them say so boldly.

Mr. James Montgomery considered that there were other causes for calling the Meeting, than Mr. Montgomery's justification or condemnation. Many opinions were afloat in the country respecting the course pursued by the Members. Scarcely two persons had the same version of the story, and, now when we have so many Representatives present, we would like to hear them give the reasons for the stand they have taken, both as regards the Governor and other matters. Petitions for and against the Governor had been going the rounds of the country, and he for one would like to hear the Representatives present, give their reasons for the part they had taken. If Mr. Montgomery had forfeited the confidence of his constituents, let him suffer; if not, it is not fair to send such charges abroad.

Mr. Owen was not aware whether he was referred to as sending those charges abroad, but he did differ from Mr. M., and thought that, as an Elector of the Royalty, he had a right to express his opinions. He had done so pretty freely, he believed, and would do so now. One fault which he had against Mr. M. was the way in which he acted upon Mr. Palmer's motion for rescinding the resolution in favour of Responsible Government. He considered that such conduct was a betrayal of the Liberal cause, and a vital blow at Responsible Government. That it did not take effect, however, was chiefly owing to the skill and talent of Mr. Rae.

Mr. Rae wished to know why he had been invited to this Meeting? Was he to be judged by the Royalty electors? He could not agree that it was just that a member for the County should be brought to account by the Royalty, but, as he saw many of his own constituents present, he was willing to enter into any explanation that was necessary, or answer any question which might be put to him respecting his conduct. It was impossible, however, to go over the members' conduct, and scrutinize their votes of the whole Session, during a single evening. The country is now, Sir, at a state of particular emergency. One party is for removing the Governor, and another for retaining him. I will not say,

Mr. Chairman, that Sir Henry Huntley is the best man in the world, but will ask this question: Is it better for you to support Mr. Pope or me? I have been as much spoken against, as much written against, and as much abused, as any other man in the Colony. I am not now going to vindicate my character: that I will leave to my actions, the effects of which will be tried by that great and thorough sifter Time. You are now called together to say whether you will support Sir H. V. Huntley while he continues what he now professes to be, or will you throw the Government again into the hands of those who have misruled you so long. Do you not know them well? If you believe and know from experience that I am honest and faithful—if you have tried me for a long series of years, and never found me wanting, it will not be a trifling report, or old wives' stories, that will take away your good opinion; but if, during the same trial, I have always acted the rogue, my preaching to you for three hours will not convince you to the contrary. Your duty is to say whether you believe Sir Henry Huntley's professions—whether you disbelieve them. Utter your opinion freely, and I have no doubt you will do so.

Mr. D. Montgomery.—I have never seen any cause to change my opinion of the Governor. Shew me any public act of his which indicates a change. He has represented you as a set of savages, and will do so again when it suits his purpose. Had I come forward at the last Election as a supporter of the Governor, would I have received your suffrages? I then opposed him and do so still. I will tell you who have changed, the hon. member, and those who act with him. Did he not propose the vote of want of confidence, at the close of the Session of '46? He who was at one time the Governor's bitterest enemy is now his warmest friend. I am no seeker for office, Mr. Chairman. I might have had office, if I would have accepted it, for I was offered one last winter and refused it. That, at all events, shews my independence;—I stand here to be judged by my constituency;—the Journals are before you—let them be examined, and point out if you can, a solitary vote given against the interests of the country. I never voted for a large sum of money for Government House. Time, as Mr. Rae has observed, will tell, and I am mistaken if three years elapse before people will see better. I must again draw your attention to the false reports circulated through the country against me. Among others, it is stated that at an auction in New London, I observed, that the Belfast Election had been made a religious question; that the Roman Catholics had arrived at such a pitch, that it was high time they should be crushed or kept under. I take this opportunity, sir, of giving the most unqualified denial to this statement, and will defy any man to come before my face and say that he ever heard me say so.

Mr. Rae.—Mr. Montgomery, in stating that I was Sir H. Huntley's bitterest enemy, is not warranted by facts. No, sir, Mr. Pope is his bitterest enemy. When Sir Henry lent himself to Mr. Pope, to bring a charge against me, I was confident that he (Pope) was at the bottom of it, it was so bitter. I was no enemy to the Governor previous to that, and then felt that the time would come when vengeance would overtake him, for lending himself to assist Pope in his infamous design to calumniate me. Many of you now present can bear witness that at the last election, I did not declare myself an enemy to the Governor. I then stated, and appeal to many of you for confirmation, that in the quarrel between His Excellency and Pope, my opinion was, that there were 6 of one and half a dozen of the other. I well knew Pope to be a bitter, vindictive, and unscrupulous man, who would stick at nothing to accomplish his end—that truth and falsehood were alike to him, and was told this also by other—(Name, from Mr. McLean.)—I am not bound to name. Let Mr. Montgomery—let any other man—put his finger on a Despatch where the Governor has called us slaves. Very probably he was vexed because he did not get the amount which Ready did, and might have expressed his vexation in a manner not very agreeable to some gentlemen. I can point to symptoms of change in the Governor. Look to the appointment of Liberal Magistrates, of Mr. McKinnon, of Barbara Wiet, and Joseph Dingwell, of Bay Fortune, to the Commission of the Peace. I saw plain enough that he would be driven over to our party, and was I, sir, to close the door, and refuse to admit such a powerful auxiliary? I should have been mad, and worse than mad; I should have been a traitor to that cause which I have espoused long ago, to that cause which I was sent to the Assembly to advocate, and which I will advocate while the Almighty spare my intellect. Who, sir,—what man of sense—not swayed by passion or prejudice—not wilfully blind, or bound body and soul to the wheels of Joseph Pope's car, can or will pretend to say there is no change in the

Governor, when they read his closing speech to the Legislature. He says:

"With reference to your Address to Her Majesty upon the subject of the introduction of the system of Responsible Government into this Island; I shall forward my observations upon it with all due despatch, and I feel it my duty now to state, that I shall give it my best support. Whatever doubt I may at one time have entertained, as to the ability of carrying out this system of Government in a community circumscribed as this is, that doubt has been dispelled by the experience obtained from the political events which have distinguished the last twelve months in this Colony, the consideration of which has led me to apprehend the introduction of the doctrine, that those who are termed the constitutional advisers of the Head of the Government, may, openly or covertly, dissent from the line of policy which that officer may think it necessary to pursue, and yet retain their seats as advisers; believing that the relationship between these two high offices can only constitutionally exist under an unanimity of political views, and fully admitting that the Executive Councillor cannot, with honor to himself, or with justice to the country, retain his seat an hour after he disapproves of the policy of the Head of the Government. I am convinced that the principle of Responsible Government, duly regulated by wise and well considered provisions, adapted to the peculiarities of the Colony, is as requisite to the free exercise of the constitutional authority and beneficial influence of the Lieutenant Governor himself, as I trust it will be found advantageous to the people of the Island generally."

Perhaps Sir Henry's version of Responsible Government and mine do not exactly agree. Now, I understand that Responsible Government means giving the people more power. Let the grand principle be once conceded to us, and we will be able to work out the details. It is now in a measure established, and is a certain concession to the popular branch of the Legislature. I am not bound by the Governor's definition of Responsible Government. If a majority of the House differ from him, then the Imperial Government will step in and shew us what share we are to have. The Governor now advocates Responsible Government, whatever he may previously have done. He might have made a better expression, but he may have meant that he thought it improper in Mr. Pope to sit at the Council Board, listen to all its secrets, and then walk into the House of Assembly and denounce him who was chief of that Board, as a dissembler. It is impossible: he cannot expect the Government to be carried on in plain contradiction to the majority of that House. I have been offered as many offices as may have fallen to the lot of any other one, for the last six months. I took none of them. If I should be offered office, the annual income of which could be more than I am worth, or more than I ever expect to be worth, I would rather—and you never knew me tell you a lie—I would rather cut my left arm off with my right hand, than take it at the expense, or at the risk, of injuring my good, and true, and real friends of Prince County. (Mr. Rae added something more, which could not be heard, owing to the loud and prolonged cheering.)

Mr. D. Montgomery.—Mr. Rae spoke half a day in conversation with Sir Henry, a few days before the opening of the Session, and when questioned respecting his frequent conversations with him, would not answer; said he was not bound so to do. Would the Chairman not feel himself bound to answer under similar circumstances? The appointment of Liberal Magistrates was not Mr. Rae's reason for supporting Sir Henry. Had the Governor, in his opening speech, avowed a change of opinion, he would have supported him likewise. Because Mr. Rae thought proper to support him he was not bound to do so. He had always acted in a straight-forward manner. Look at the Journals and they would prove it. It had been objected to him that he had voted for Mr. Palmer's motion for rescinding the Responsible Government Resolutions. He had done so, and his reason was, that the Third District of Queen's County was at the time virtually disfranchised, and he thought every man in the country should have a vote upon such an important subject through his Representatives. Look at the Journals, and upon every division his vote would be found in favor of Responsible Government. He would be judged by the Journals, and would stand or fall by them, and in them not one vote of his would be found in opposition to the people.

Mr. Owen thought that Mr. M. was a good advocate for himself. He had put it in the power of others to destroy Responsible Government. Palmer, it was well known, would do all in his power to injure it. He had said that the tenantry of P. E. Island were not fit for it. He had never known a greater insult. Were not the