

KINGSTON CHRONICLE.



NEC REGE, NEC POPULO, SED UTROQUE.

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POETRY.

FAITH AND HOPE.

Earth's loveliest flowers may wither,
Her sky be clouded o'er,
Her fairest promise broken—
Yet Heaven beams bright before!
And many a cheering beacon
To Faith's uplifted eye,
By hope and truth enkindled,
Are blazing o'er the sky.

There beams the cross that saves us
From ruin and the tomb—
The bow of heavenly promise
That glids the stormy gloom;
And there that star of glory,
That first on Bethlehem shone,
Whose beams shall guide thee safely
To thy celestial throne.

Then speed thee onward, pilgrim!
With steady upward aim,
Unwary by doubt or danger,
Unbent by fear or shame,
On, on, and trust thy Father,
Who calls to thee from heaven—
'Tis He, who guides and keeps thee,
And whispers—"Thou'rt forgiven."

EXTRACT FROM PELHAM;

OR

The adventures of a Gentleman.

CHAP. III.

Thus does a false ambition rule us,
Thus pomp delude, and folly fool us.

SHENSTONE.

An open house, haunted with great resort.

BISHOP HALL'S SATIRES.

I LEFT Cambridge in a very weak state of health; and as nobody had yet come to London, I accepted the invitation of Sir Lionel Garrett to pay him a visit at his country seat. Accordingly, one raw winter's day, full of the hopes of the reviving influence of air and exercise, I found myself carefully packed up in three great coats, and on the high road to Garrett Park.

Sir Lionel Garrett was a character very common in England, and, in describing him, I describe the whole species. He was of an ancient family which had for centuries resided on their estates in Norfolk. Sir Lionel, who came to his majority and his fortune at the same time, went up to London at the age of twenty-one, a raw, uncouth sort of young man, in a green coat and lank hair. His friends in town were of that set whose members are above ton, whenever they do not grasp at his possession, but who, whenever they do, lose at once their aim and their equilibrium, and fall immeasurably below it. I mean that set which I call "the respectable," consisting of old peers of an old school; country gentlemen, who still disdain not to love their wine and to hate the French; generals who have served in the army; elder brothers who succeed to something besides a mortgage; and younger brothers who do not mistake their capital for their income.

To this set you may add the whole of the baronetage—for I have remarked that baronets hang together like bees or Scotchmen; and if I go to the baronet's house, and speak to some one whom I have not the happiness to know, I always say "Sir John."

It was no wonder, then, that to this set belonged Sir Lionel Garrett—no more the youth in a green coat and lank hair, but pinched in, and curled up—abounding in horses and whisks—dancing all night—lounging all day—the favorite of the old ladies, the Philander of the young.

One unfortunate evening Sir Lionel Garrett was introduced to the celebrated Duchess of D. From that moment his head was turned. Before then, he had always imagined that he was somebody—that he was Sir Lionel Garrett, with a good-looking person and eight thousand a year. He now knew that he was nobody unless he went to Lady G's, and unless he bowed to Lady S. Disdaining all importance derived from himself, it became absolutely necessary to his happiness, that all his importance should be derived solely from his acquaintance with others. He cared not a straw that he was a man of fortune, of family, of consequence; he must be a man of ton; or he was an atom, a nonentity, a very worm, and no man. No Lawyer at Gray's Inn, no galley slave at the oar, ever worked so hard at his task as Sir Lionel Garrett at his. Ton, to a single man, is a thing attainable enough. Sir Lionel was just gaining the envied distinction, when he saw, courted, and married Lady Harriett Woodstock.

His new wife was of a modern and not very rich family, striving like Sir Lionel for the notoriety of fashion; but of this struggle he was ignorant. He saw her admitted into good society—he imagined she commanded it; she was a hanger on—he believed she was a leader. Lady Harriett was crafty and twenty-four—had no objection to be married, nor to change the name of Woodstock for Garrett. She kept up the baronet's mistake till it was too late to repair it.

Marriage did not bring Sir Lionel wisdom. His wife was of the same turn of mind as himself: they might have been great people in the country—they preferred being little people in town. They might have chosen friends among persons of respectability and rank—they preferred being chosen as acquaintances by persons of ton. Society was their being's end and aim, and the only thing which brought them

pleasure was the pain of attaining it. Did I not say truly that I would describe individuals of a common species? Is there one who reads this, who does not recognize that overflowing class of the English population, who would conceive it an insult to be thought of sufficient rank to be respectable for what they are?—what take it as an honour that they are made by their acquaintance?—who renounce the ease of living for themselves, for the trouble of living for persons who care not a pin for their existence—who are wretched if they are dictated to by others—and who toil, groan, travail, through the whole course of life, in order to forfeit their independence?

I arrived at Garrett Park just time enough to dress for dinner. As I was descending the stairs after having performed that ceremony, I heard my own name pronounced by a very soft, lisping voice, "Henry Pelham, dear what a pretty name, is he handsome?"

"Rather *distingue* than handsome," was the unsatisfactory reply, couched in a slow pompous accent, which I immediately recognised to belong to Lady Harriett Garrett.

"Can we make something of him?" resumed the first voice.

"Something!" said Lady Harriett, indignantly; "he will be Lord Gleomorris! and he is son Lady Frances Pelham."

"Ah," said the lisper, carelessly; "but can he write poetry, and play *proverbs*?"

"No, Lady Harriett," said I advancing, "but permit me, through you, to assure Lady Nelthorpe that he can admire those who do."

"So you know me then?" said the lisper; "I see we shall be excellent friends; and disengaging herself from Lady Harriett, she took my arm, and began discussing persons and things, poetry and china, French Plays and music, till I found myself beside her at dinner, and most assiduously endeavouring to silence her by the superior engrossments of a *bechamelle de poisson*.

I took the opportunity of the pause, to survey the little circle of which Lady Harriett was the centre. In the first place, there was Davidson, a great political economist, a short, dark, corpulent, gentleman, with a quiet, serene, sleepy countenance, which put me exceedingly in mind of my grandmother's arm chair; beside him was a quick, sharp little woman, all sparkle and bustle, glancing a small, grey, prying eye round the table, with a most restless activity; this, as Lady Nelthorpe afterwards informed me, was a Miss Trafford, an excellent person for a Christmas in the country, whom every body else was dying to have; she was an admirable mimic, an admirable actress, and an admirable reciter; made poetry and shoes, and told fortunes by the cards, which came *actually true*.

There was also Mr. Wormwood, the *noti-metangere* of literary lions—an author who sowed his conversation not with flowers but thorns. Nobody could accuse him of the flattery generally imputed to his species; through the course of a long and varied life, he had never once been known to say a civil thing. He was too much disliked not to be *recherche*; whatever is once notorious, even for being disagreeable, is sure to be courted in England. Opposite to him sat the really clever, and affectingly pedantic Lord Vincent, one of those persons who have been "promoting young men" all their lives; who are found till four o'clock in the afternoon, in a dressing gown with a quart before them; who go down in the country for six weeks every session, to cram an impromptu reply; and who always have a work in the press which is never to be published.

Lady Nelthorpe herself I had frequently seen. She had some reputation for talent, was exceedingly affected, wrote poetry in albums, ridiculed her husband who was a fox-hunter, and had a great *penchant pour les beaux arts et les beaux hommes*.

There were four or five others of the unknown vulgar, younger brothers, who were good shots and bad matches; elderly ladies, who lived in Baker-street, and liked long whist; and young ones, who never took wine, and said "Sir."

I must, however, among this number, except the beautiful Lady Roseville, the most fascinating woman, perhaps, of the day. She was evidently the great person there, and indeed, among all people who paid due deference to ton, was always sure to be so every where. I have never seen but one person more beautiful. Her eyes were of the deepest blue; her complexion of the most delicate carnation; her hair of the richest auburn; nor could even Mr. Wormwood detect the smallest fault in the rounded yet slender symmetry of her figure.

Although not above twenty-five she was in that state in which alone a woman ceases to be a dependant—widowhood. Lord Roseville, who had been dead about two years, had not survived their marriage many months; that period was, however, sufficiently long to allow him to appreciate her excellence, and to testify his sense of it; the whole of his unentailed property, which was very large, he bequeathed to her.

She was very fond of the society of *litterati*, though without the pretence of belonging to their order. But her manners constituted her chief attraction; while they were utterly different from those of every one else, you could not, in the least minute, discover in what the difference consisted:

this is in my opinion, the real test of perfect breeding. While you are enchanted with the effect it should possess so little prominence and peculiarity, that you should never be able to guess the cause.

"Pray," said Lord Vincent, to Mr. Wormwood, "have you been to P—this year?"

"No," was the answer. "I have my Lord," said Miss Trafford, who never lost an opportunity of slipping in a word.

"Well, and did they make you sleep, as usual, at the Crown, with the same eternal excuse, after having brought you fifty miles from town, of small house—no beds—all engaged—in close by? Ah, never shall I forget that inn, with its royal name, and its hard beds—"

"Uneasy sleeps a head beneath the Crown?"

"Ha, ha! excellent!" cried Miss Trafford, who was always the first in at the death of a pun. "Yes, indeed they did; poor old Lord Belton, with his rheumatism; and that immense General Grant, with his asthma; together with three 'single men,' and myself, were safely conveyed to that asylum for the destitute."

"Ah! Grant, Grant!" said Lord Vincent, eagerly, who saw another opportunity of whipping in a pun. "He slept there also the same night I did; and when I saw his unwieldy person waddling out of the door the next morning, I said to Temple, 'Well, that's the largest Grant I ever saw from the Crown.'"

"Very good," said Wormwood, gravely. "I declare, Vincent, you are growing quite witty. Do you remember Jekyl? Poor fellow, what a really good punster he was—not agreeable though—particularly at dinner—no punsters are. Mr. Davidson, what is that dish next to you?"

Mr. Davidson was a great gourmand: "Salmi de perdrix aux truffes."

"Truffles!" said Wormwood, "have you been eating any?"

"Yes," said Davidson, with unusual energy, "and they are the best I have tasted for a long time."

"Very likely," said Wormwood, with a dejected air; "I am particularly fond of them, but I dare not touch one—truffles are so very appetitic—you, I make no doubt, may eat them in safety."

Wormwood was a tall, meagre man, with a neck a yard long. Davidson was, as I have said, short and fat, and made without any apparent neck at all—only head and shoulders like a cod fish. Poor Mr. Davidson turned perfectly white; he fidgeted about in his chair; cast a look of the most deadly fear and aversion at the fatal dish he had been so attentive to before; and, muttering "appetitic" closed his lips, and did not open them again all dinner-time.

Mr. Wormwood's object was affected. Two people were silenced and uncomfortable, and a sort of mist hung over the spirits of the whole party. The dinner went on and off, like all other dinners; the ladies retired, and the men drank, and talked in decorums. Mr. Davidson left the room first, in order to look out the word "truffle," in the Encyclopædia; and Lord Vincent and I went next, "lest (as my companion characteristically observed) that damned Wormwood should, if we stayed a moment longer, send us weeping to our beds."

FOR THE KINGSTON CHRONICLE.
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PRO PATRIA.
29th December, 1828.

Meeting of the Provincial Parliament—Message—Resolutions—Declaration of Independence—&c.

[CONTINUED.]

The present House of Assembly have a manner as well as matter in all their proceedings which is peculiar to themselves. They are men of *mode* as well as of action. The ancient method of going about business and performing their work they despise. The "march of intellect" has made extraordinary progress and wrought marvels amongst them. Innovations have been made on the most simple operations.

An axe for the future, must not be taken by the handle but by the edge of the weapon itself. A saw must be grasped by the frame. Every fashionable table must be furnished with the shovel and tongs instead of knives and forks. The tail of every beau's coat must be worn upwards; and every fashionable lady who has any regard for her reputation, must wear rings on her toes instead of her fingers, and in her nose instead of her ears. Not less ridiculous, certainly, are the innovations already introduced, and about to be introduced into the proceedings of our House of Assembly. Whenever a member wishes to carry a favourite measure, or to pass what may be conceived to be a most excellent law, he has nothing to do but simply perform the necessary operation in his own mind on some given preceding night—write down his law or his resolutions—carry them in a corner of his pocket up to the Assembly—stand up bare-pated in his place—read them—and, presto, the business is done! The ears of the sage and patriotic gentleman is immediately and clamorously assailed by the "Cries"—"Aglia"—"Yeas"—of almost every individual

in the house. It is quite unnecessary for the learned gentleman to give himself any trouble in preliminary explanation of the nature and object of his measure. The mere recital of his resolutions is quite enough. Men's minds are now more sensitive and penetrating than before. They intuitively perceive an object without the old-fashioned aid of any explanation or reasoning whatever. Oratory has now become too old-fashioned a commodity to be thrown away in our public *Deliberative Assemblies* for nothing; and one short resolution is worth twenty long speeches. So no doubt, thought Mr. Neilson—at least, so he acted when, on the fifth of the present month of December, in the year of our Lord, 1828, he submitted his famous Resolutions in reply to His Excellency's Message.

This gentleman, knowing from long and successful experience, the mute and passive disposition of his fellow-Representatives, drew his Resolutions from his pocket, and with a confidence worthy of his knowledge, silently presented them to the house. Wrapping himself carelessly up in the mantle of what Mr. Stuart happily denominated a "predetermined majority," he condescended merely to solicit the concurrence of the house as a matter of course! It ought to be well observed and long remembered, that among the Fifty individuals who constitute the House of Assembly of Lower Canada there were only Six who spoke on one of the most momentous questions that ever occurred in the deliberations of a Colonial legislature; this question being in reality, however, much it may be attempted to be disguised—whether this province is longer to endure the legislative supremacy of the Mother Country? Three of those six, he it observed, were on either side of the debate. As to the rest, Balaam's Ass was a prince among orators—a very Demosthenes, a Cicero, a Chatham, a Burke—in comparison with them; for the honest brute spoke most rationally and to the question when knocked on the head, an experiment, which, we are sure, might frequently be essayed to no purpose in the Assembly. These silent gentlemen—these mute automatons—came there to act, not to prate, to vote, not to speechnify. It is not at all requisite that they should be well-informed as to the proceedings of the house. They are sent there by three hundred thousand electors who can neither read nor write; and they are fully satisfied that one speaker or leader for every hundred thousand is a fair and just representation. What an excellent commentary on Mr. Huskisson's story of the *Crosses* to the petitions of grievances! The truth is, and it is high time the truth should be known—that there are not six members on the major side of the house who can discourse for ten seconds with any rational portion of judgment on the simplest question of our constitutional laws; and we will bet a rump and dozen, that there is not a devil's dozen in the whole house who can tell the difference between a monarchical and democratic government or between the British Constitution and that of the United States of America! Yet these are the individuals who, not only arrogating to themselves the wisdom and discretion of an enlightened legislative body, but the possession and control of all the executive powers of government, have reduced this province into a state of anarchy, and dolefully persist, by their unwearied ignorance, in rejecting every measure calculated to restore the peace of the province and save the people from impending ruin.

Let no man tell us that all this is mere declamation. We utterly scorn the mean alternative. Our observations are founded on truth—self-evident and undeniable truth; and that they are so, we have only to refer to the sentiments and opinions set forth in the Resolutions under consideration.

The first of these Resolutions states, "that the House derived the greatest satisfaction from the gracious expression of His Majesty's beneficent views towards this province"; yet, as if sorry and ashamed that any complimentary expressions, even to their Sovereign, should have passed their lips the majority of the house, in their second Resolution, hasten to declare that they have "Nevertheless observed with great concern, that it may be inferred from that part of the Message which relates to the appropriation of the revenue, that the pretension put forth at the commencement of the late Administration, to the disposal of a large portion of the revenue of this province may be persisted in."

This is extraordinary language, both as to style and sentiment, to be held forth to a Constitutional Sovereign, who has, and who can have, no other object, to use his own words, than the "Welfare of his FAITHFUL CANADIAN SUBJECTS;" and whose present communication to the legislature of this province is founded not only on the general constitution of the Empire, but on solemn acts both of the Imperial and Provincial Parliaments. The style, however, we pass over with that silent scorn and indignation becoming the loyal subjects of one of the greatest and generous of Sovereigns, thanking our stars, we have been reared in the conviction, that the sternest of public duties is not incompatible at once with decent manners, and the language of sobriety and respect. As to the sentiments, having somewhat to say to them, and being convinced that the example of history is the best possible mode of instruction, if not of conviction

also, we shall here enter into a brief historical detail of the *Permanent Revenue* of the province. By this means we hope to be able to say, with unerring certainty on which side the "pretension" really and truly lies.

When Great Britain conquered Canada—plucked it from the tyrannical and despotick grasp of old France—rescued the Fathers of the House of Assembly from feudal bondage and slavery—and restored them to the freedom and independence of the British Constitution, it was found that certain duties imposed upon the importation and exportation of merchandise were the principal means existing for the support of the government of the colony. These finances, which, perhaps did not exceed seven or eight thousand pounds sterling per annum, were at the entire disposal and administration of the INTENDANT, an officer in the French government who, by his commission, was authorized to exercise, fully and freely, all those powers of appropriation and control which at present constitute the primary ambition of the Assembly. The powers of the INTENDANT, indeed, were such as we should not like to see engrossed by any one individual branch of our government, free and mixed as it is. He not only enjoyed the right of collecting and disposing, but of levying and imposing it also in any mode and manner most suitable to his wishes and inclinations, not to the circumstances and good-will of the People, who, until the conquest, were considered as mere military slaves and feudal vassals, without a voice in the government or influence in the state. As soon as the definitive treaty of Paris had been signed, the British government appointed a "Receiver-General, and Collector" of the royal patrimony rents, revenues, farms, taxes, tithes, duties, imports, profits, and casualties arising within the province of Quebec, "with power to apply the monies which should come into his hands of the said duties and revenues in the first place for and towards defraying the necessary expense of Government, and the necessary charge of managing the revenue under his care; remitting home by good bills of exchange the surpluses of the monies which from time to time should remain in his hands after payment of those expenses in order that the same might be applied to the reimbursing the public here, (in Great Britain) the monies that had been necessarily advanced for that purpose, by reason that the aforesaid duties and taxes had not been levied within the two years last past." In this way the above duties continued to be levied, collected and appropriated or applied till the year 1774, when the celebrated act 14th Geo. III. cap. 88. was passed by the Imperial Parliament. This act is entitled "An act to establish a fund towards further defraying the charges of the administration of justice, and support of the civil government within the province of Quebec in America." By this act all the duties which were imposed on goods imported into or exported from this province under the authority of His Most Christian Majesty, were discontinued from and after the 5th day of April, 1775; and in lieu thereof the several rates and duties therein mentioned, were ordered to be raised, levied, collected, and paid into His Majesty, his heirs and successors for and upon the respective goods herein-after mentioned, which shall be imported and brought into any part of the said province and administered as other duties now payable in the said province by any act or acts of parliament." It was then enacted "That all the monies that shall arise by the said duties (except the necessary charges of raising, collecting, levying, recovering, answering, paying and accounting for the same) shall be paid by the collector of His Majesty's customs into the hands of His Majesty's Receiver-General in the said province for the time being, and shall be applied in the first place in making a more certain and adequate provision towards defraying the expenses of the Civil Administration of Justice and of the support of the Civil Government of the said province; and that the Lord Treasurer or Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury or any two or three of them for the time being, shall be, and is or are hereby empowered from time to time by any warrant or warrants under his or their hand or hands to cause such money to be applied out of the said produce of the said duties towards defraying the said expenses; and that the residue of the said duties shall remain and be reserved in the hands of the said Receiver-General, for the future disposition of Parliament."

By this law the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury became fully invested with the uncontrollable power of applying or appropriating the duties imposed in virtue of its enactments towards defraying the expenses of the administration of justice, and of the support of the Civil Government of the Province, so far as the amount of these duties could admit of such appropriation. But these Commissioners have always delegated their authority to the Governors of the Province, every one of whom, in the execution of such authority, and in obedience to the concurring commands and instructions of His Majesty, has always appropriated the revenues in question for the purposes described in the act itself, without being subjected to the control of any authority whatever in the Province. Indeed, until the passing of the

Thomas Mills, Esq. was the first appointed to this office, and his commission is dated the 10th of July, 1765.

Constitutional act, in 1791, there existed no power or authority in the Province which had the right to call into question these appropriations; and even then, as will presently be seen, the new constitutional bodies created by that act neither arrogated to themselves, as some of them have since done, nor received from Parliament any the smallest right to interfere with the delegated powers of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. In 1795, however, four years after the passing of the Constitutional act, it was discovered, that the permanent revenue created, as above, by the act of 1774, was inadequate to the purposes for which it had been raised; and it was provincial legislature of that day not wishing like the present, that the arms of the government should be shortened, or any of their powers dissolved, passed an act of which this is the title:—"An Act for granting to His Majesty an additional and new duties on certain goods, wares, and merchandizes, and for appropriating the same towards further defraying the charges of the administration of Justice, and support of the civil government within this Province, and for other purposes therein mentioned." The sum consigned annually into the hands of His Majesty by this act, was five thousand pounds sterling; and its authors, imitating the words and intentions of its imperial predecessor of 1774, ordained, that "the due application of all such monies pursuant to the directions of this act, shall be accounted for to HIS MAJESTY, HIS HEIRS, AND SUCCESSORS, THROUGH THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY, in such manner and form as His Majesty, his heirs and successors shall direct."

It will here be observed, that the Legislature of 1795, so far from claiming the "inherent right" of appropriating the revenue created by the imperial act of 1774, added, by a free and voluntary enactment of their own, a considerable sum to it, to be applied and accounted for in the same manner as the original act of the Supreme Legislature: thus—not tacitly, nor constructively, but openly and spontaneously—declaring their own incapacity to interfere with the rights of their Sovereign. Is it possible to adduce stronger or more conclusive evidence of the absurdity and injustice of the claims of the present Assembly, than this abstinence from executive intervention on the part of their predecessors of 1795? The assembly of that time were in possession of the same legal and constitutional rights that can possibly be enjoyed now; and surely we cannot think so meanly of them as to believe, that if they really possessed any authority over the Crown revenues, they were destitute of sufficient courage to claim and exercise it. The act of 1774 was then as much in force as it is now; and the provisions of the subsequent constitutional act of 1791, were then as extensive and as well understood as they are now. His Majesty was therefore left in the peaceable enjoyment and disposal of his revenue, which he augmented still further by the casual and territorial revenue of the Crown, and fines and forfeitures; making together, as stated in the Message of the 29th of November last, the sum of £38,100. This far, then, it is pretty clear, that the "pretension put forth to the disposal of a large portion of the revenue of this Province," was not the act of the "LATE ADMINISTRATION."

Towards the year 1810, another spirit and more dangerous principles were infused into the House of Assembly by the introduction of new members, pretending to have wiser heads and more courageous hearts than any of their predecessors. These gentlemen, instigated by a long-cherished conviction that no barrier remained between them and the entire possession of all the powers of government, as well Executive as Legislative, except the right to control and apply the whole public revenue of the Province, prevailed upon the House of Assembly to make an offer to the King of "the necessary sums for defraying the civil expenses of the government of this Province." This step having been taken of a sudden by a dark and intriguing majority of the Assembly, without any notion or suggestion of the Crown, or the concurrence of the Legislative Council, its unconstitutionality aspect was perceived by all men, while but few were able to penetrate into the ulterior and real objects of this majority. His Excellency Sir James Henry Craig was one of these few; and the answer to this stent but constitutional Governor to the Assembly, when they approached him with their novel offer, can never be sufficiently admired. His Excellency firmly and candidly told them, that their offer was not constitutional inasmuch as the usage of the Imperial Parliament forbade all steps on the part of the people towards grants of money which were not recommended by the Crown; and that although by the same parliamentary usage, all grants originated in the Lower House, yet they were ineffectual without the concurrence of the Upper House. For these reasons His Excellency conceived the addresses brought up by the Assembly to be unprecedented, IMPERFECT in form, and being merely founded on the resolutions of that House, without the sanction or concurrence of the Legislative Council, must be ineffectual. His Excellency thought it right, however, to apprise His Majesty of their present proceedings and offer, however imperfect in form and unconstitutional in matter. Considering the views of the Assembly, it may be easily imagined that this answer acted upon them somewhat similar to the effects of a first discovery upon