

THURSDAY 23d JAN. 1835.

I have attended the House of Assembly almost every day since it was opened, and have been greatly delighted at the decided Reform character it has assumed. As you once very properly intimated the choice of Speaker has decided the character of the house. There were some members who felt bound to support Mr. Morris from private considerations, and had been proposed before Mr. Bidwell, and not been accepted, they would undoubtedly have supported the latter gentleman in preference to Mr. McLean. The same was the case with respect to the supporters of Mr. McLean. Some would have voted for him rather than for any other; but they preferred Mr. Bidwell to Mr. Morris. The celebrity of Mr. Perry, however, did not give Mr. Bidwell's opponents an opportunity of naming their favorites. The vote was taken in the evening, and the favorable result elicited tremendous applause from all parts of the house. Never did the Constitutional Reformers have a more complete triumph. The enemies of order and good government, must again "begin to cast about in their minds eye for a new state of political existence." They can never again by corrupt means or otherwise obtain the supremacy, in the House of Assembly at least. The result of last Thursday, has spread universal joy throughout the Country; and Reformers from all quarters now fill the galleries, and spaces below the Bar, anxious to witness and applaud the efforts of their Representatives, for the renovation of Upper Canada. Mr. Bidwell presides with unprecedented ability: much good may be expected to result to all parties, from this winter's deliberations.

Mr. Perry has given notice of his intention to introduce a bill for the sale of the Clergy Reserves. Mr. McNab has given notice of moving, that steps be taken, to procure the imposition of duties upon Foreign produce. This he intends to support to obtain popularity. But it will not do. He is too full of what Mr. Perry terms "Pocket Loyalty," &c. &c. to gull the freeholders of Wentworth by such means. He was indignantly refused by them this year, and thought proper to take up with the rotten borough of Hamilton. Several Liberals intended taking up the subject, but their antagonists got the start of them. To such miserable expedients are the Anti-Reformers put, to retain what little influence they now possess.

Mr. Bull's petition against Gowan and Jameson of Leeds, has been presented, and the whole matter is to be investigated soon. Gowan strove hard to have a commission issued to examine witnesses. But the house by a casting vote of the Speaker said—No! For the ends of justice, it is well the witnesses are to be brought to Toronto, for examination. The House will then be able to judge of their credibility.

An address has been voted to-day, in answer to his Excellency's Speech. The Tories attempted to impose one on the house, in accordance with their sentiments, but it was indignantly rejected; although Hagerman with his usual impudence attempted to thrust it down the throats of all. One was adopted moved by Mr. Perry, vindicating the character of the house and of its Speaker.

The Reformers have done nobly, as you will perceive. They have taught their enemies that they are engaged in no fool's play.—May they long continue in the independent course they are now pursuing. Perry may be considered the leader of the Liberals. He is absolutely invincible in any point you may take him.

McKenzie is the best Speaker in the house. He is possessed of more volubility than any man I ever heard, and displays more practical knowledge in support of his arguments than all the members on the other side.

Dr. Morrison promises to become a very able debater. He has a head that would do credit to some old Greek. Mr. Hagerman took occasion to refer to him to-day as the man in the Spectacles. Dr. Morrison is a man not to be insulted in this way, and the Sol. Gen. may expect as respectable a lashing as ever he received, in a short time.

Old James Wilson was on his legs this day, and poured forth a flood of eloquence, worth all that has come from the opposite benches. Mr. Roblin from Prince Edward, (Colleague of Mr. Wilson) is a rapid speaker, and delivers himself with great force. With a little more practice he will be a star of the first magnitude.

Your Representative, Mr. Norton expresses his opinions freely, and with much elegance. He is not like some hon. members, anxious to make a display, though impeding the business of the country.

Mr. Wells and Dr. Bruce, of Stormont, who are the youngest men in the house, had not said one word. Both seem to think themselves like young Chiefs in the Indian Councils, and wish to hear what others have to advance, in preference to speaking themselves.

D. E. McDonald and Edward Malloch, are what may be called trimmers between the parties.—They cannot be depended on. All the members from the Western District have turned out recent. They professed themselves Reformers, and are now the opposite. Messrs. Samson, Hagerman, Robinson, McNab, and that poor man Walsh, are the principal debaters in opposition. They are all passable speakers.

No Reporters have been appointed as yet, consequently you will get no correct reports. There have been several notices of motions to introduce bills for new Banks in the Province. It is not expected that any of these bills will pass.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, January 21st.

In committee of the whole on His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session. Dr. Duncombe in the Chair.

(Debate continued.)

Mr. Perry thought there had been some reflections and insinuations made which did not become the House. He would refer them to the Journals of the tenth Parliament, where they would find that the sentiments of the House had been expressed on subjects not connected with the speech. The hon. member for Leeds, (Mr. Gowan) has stated, that whoever was in favour of the Emigrant Poll Tax, was opposed to emigration. Well, then, King William is opposed to emigration. Before that gentleman (Mr. Gowan) was fairly warm in his seat, he declared he was a reformer, and what do we find him? According to that hon. gentleman, I am disloyal, because I defend a certain person who is a member of the hon. House. I defend principles not men. No hon. gentleman has opposed the sentiments contained in the resolutions. No; the objection is, perhaps, that they came from the wrong character.

Mr. Speaker Bidwell said, he would vote for the resolutions of his hon. colleague. There was nothing uncourteous in them, they merely expressed to His Excellency the opinion of that house upon certain public measures, which they had a perfect constitutional right to do. And he should be sorry

to see the House of Assembly, freely elected by the people to convey their wishes to His Majesty's Representative, degraded into a mere office to recite an echo of the Speech from the Throne, which was to be sent to His Majesty's Government as the opinions of the people of this Province. An honest expression of their opinions could not be thought uncourteous, and he was sorry to see an attempt made to induce the committee to believe that the resolutions were unparliamentary. His Excellency was removed from a free intercourse with the people of the Province, and might possibly be surrounded by persons who did not inform him of the true feelings and wishes of the people; and they would not fulfil their duty as true representatives of the people if they did not inform him of their just feelings and wishes. And it would be an act of injustice to His Excellency to suppose for a moment that he would take offence at a free expression of their opinions. Now, sir (continued the Speaker,) I think the resolutions express the sentiments of the people of the Province; and if a majority of this committee think so, it is their duty to support them. I will not now enter into the merits of the resolutions—I merely rise to remove those preliminary objections to them, and to show that they are not contrary to a proper parliamentary course; for if we are only to echo the Speech, our sitting here as legislators and the representatives of the people is a mere farce. If we approve of the policy of the Government, we should echo the Speech; if we do not, we should say so. His Excellency should be informed of the wishes of the people, and then it will be seen whether he will conform the policy of the Government to those wishes, or go against them.

Mr. Morris.—The hon. and learned Speaker says we should speak our sentiments freely and fully without fear. Why, sir, that is just what I think, and the last Parliament did so. We can at the proper time and in a becoming manner tell His Excellency what we think upon these subjects, but the answer to the Speech from the Throne is not the proper time to do it. The hon. Speaker also said that His Excellency was removed from an opportunity of learning the true wishes of the country. But I have always understood that he was easy of access to all persons, and willing to receive information from any one on any subject relating to the welfare of the Province. I think the hon. member of these resolutions said in the very outset of his speech that nothing was said upon the subject of education, and that His Excellency had always particularly mentioned it before. Now, I think that is the very reason for his omitting it at this time—he had pressed it upon us for five successive sessions, and we did nothing. But is there not another reason? I think there may be. Last session the House of Assembly addressed His Majesty's Government for further information on the subject of the School lands; His Excellency may not have received any answer, and that may be the reason why nothing is said about education in the Speech. I feel as a deeply interested in the subject as any hon. member in the house, which I think my whole parliamentary course will prove; and if I vote against the resolutions it is not because I have altered my opinions upon that subject; for if we do not get a satisfactory answer from His Majesty's Government, I will be one of the first to adopt very strong resolutions on the subject. The hon. member who introduced these resolutions said we were not to be forever speaking of our loyalty. I think so too—no person hates more than I do to hear the term bandied about—but there are occasions on which it is our duty to express our attachment to the Government; and I think that time was not so long since, when a public document was sent to this country and published by a person high in office in this city—upon such an occasion it becomes the duty of every loyal man to express his condemnation of the sentiments it contained, and I hope it will be done fearlessly.

The Solicitor General said, it was not his intention to occupy the time of the Committee only for a very few moments. He had been highly gratified by the discussion which had taken place on that occasion; and even the resolutions introduced by the hon. member for Lenox and Addington spoke another tone from what he expected to have heard from him, and the discussion of them had elicited sentiments which were honorable to members of the house. The hon. member has thought it proper to allude to the stock from which he sprung. Sir, it is an illustrious stock; and I hope when he thinks of it he will bear in mind, that it was because his father would not associate with the British North America, as a "baneful domination," that he has the honor of belonging to it. Let his son imitate his conduct, and he will then be a worthy scion of the stock he boasts. Now, sir, although I have on one occasion felt myself called upon, with more pain than I expect to get credit for from either side of the house, to condemn the opinions of that hon. member's hon. and learned colleague, and to give him my most decided opposition, I have ever conceded to him the merit of great talents, and believe him to be sincere in the course he takes, however pernicious I consider its tendency to be—I have had to deal with him upon the floor of this house on many occasions, and have ever found him a gentleman—he is now Speaker, and shall receive my utmost respect. Why he should get up here and advocate returning an answer containing sentiments not contained in the Speech, I cannot tell, and wish he had stated some precedents for such a course. He referred to the tenth parliament for an example. Yes, sir, the tenth Parliament did return such an answer, and their deeds were judged of by their constituents—how, let the last Parliament declare. He says it is to enlighten His Excellency on some points which he supposes he may be ignorant of, or be erroneously informed of by those who have access to him—meaning the officers of the Government. But, sir, when I am asked by the Representative of my Sovereign for my opinion, I will give it fearlessly, whether it relates to public measures or public men. If there be a man in Upper Canada, who deserves well of this country for his efforts in behalf of education, it is Sir John Colborne; and I trust the house will adopt the usual parliamentary course in answering the Speech from the Throne.

Dr. Morrison, from the position he occupied, could not be heard distinctly, but was understood to say, that the committee should not hastily adopt any of the resolutions. The Speech contained several propositions which required serious consideration, and the first he would notice was, that the country is in an improving state. But if it was so, why, he would ask, was it that so much was heard from all parts of the Province concerning the distress which existed in the country? It next ascribed that prosperity of which it spoke, to emigration and public improvement. He did not think that any prosperity in the Province was owing to these causes. They were not only called upon to encourage public works, but to support those already commenced, which had swallowed up the public revenue and sunk the Province into debt. The resolutions mentioned the subject of education, and he would observe, that very little had been expended to promote the general education of the country, while a great deal had been lavished upon King's College. He thought the

greatest improvement wanted in this country, was a liberal responsible Government. (Hear, hear.) and a different composition of the Legislative Council.—He was sorry that every time he attempted to address the house he was so much embarrassed, but hoped ere long to be able to deliver his sentiments on these and some other subjects, which he expected would be brought under their consideration.

The resolutions were adopted, and the house adjourned.

THURSDAY, January 22d.

The resolutions adopted in committee were discussed again to-day, with the Speaker in the chair, and were finally carried.

FRIDAY, January 23rd.

To-day, the following Address, founded upon the resolutions of Wednesday, passed without a division, after an amendment proposed by Mr. McLean had been negatived by a majority of nine:—

To His Excellency Sir John Colborne &c. &c. May it please your Excellency.

We His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly thank your Excellency for the gracious Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open the present session of the Legislature. We assure your Excellency that we learn with unfeigned satisfaction that the welfare and general interest of the colony are in a prospering condition, and that our early attention and consideration shall be directed to the best means that can be prudently applied for the promotion of public improvements. Your Excellency may rest assured, that we will be most ready and happy to afford every encouragement to a laudable spirit of Independence and enterprise, among the industrious Inhabitants of the Province (arising from whatever cause it may) and we feel it to be our duty to express to Your Excellency our full conviction that no one step of the Legislature can more tend to afford encouragement to the industrious and enterprising agriculturists (who must always be considered the most important class in the colony) than the imposition of a suitable and proper protecting duty on various articles coming from the United States of America which now are admitted duty free; and we also assure Your Excellency that we cannot but regard the subject of general education, as one of the most vital importance to the future peace and welfare of the Province.

We are gratified to be informed that the Rideau Navigation is in full operation, and that the Commerce by the Welland Canal is on the increase.

Our early attention shall be bestowed on the public accounts and estimates when sent down; but we feel it to be our duty at once to express to Your Excellency will not fail to lay before us a full, complete and detailed account of the receipts and expenditures, of what is generally esteemed the casual and territorial Revenue, agreeably to the Despatch of Lord Goderich of the 8th November 1832 on that subject, and to the address of this House to Your Excellency in its last two sessions of Parliament.

The disbursements made to different Boards of Health to mitigate the distress and counteract as far as possible the fatal disease which afflicted the province again last season, shall meet with our early attention, and we will not fail to make such provisions as may appear to be just and expedient to make good the same.

Our attention shall be applied to the laws which are about to expire.

We beg to assure Your Excellency that we will be happy to receive any communication from Your Excellency having a tendency to prevent delay in the administration of Justice, or touching the re-organization and better establishment of the Post office department in these Colonies (a subject which has long engaged our most serious attention) or any other message or messages that Your Excellency may be pleased to communicate to this House, relating to the public affairs of the Province.

It is gratifying to learn that His Majesty has received, through your Excellency, from the people of this Province, fresh proofs of their devoted loyalty, and of their sincere and earnest desire to maintain and perpetuate the connexion with the Great Empire of which they form so important a part. These fresh demonstrations, welcomed as they are by His Majesty, will serve to correct any interested misrepresentations intended to impress His Majesty with the belief those who desire to reform many public abuses in the province are not well affected to His Majesty's person and Government.

In a country possessing free institutions, and an educated population, capable of estimating the fidelity with which their local affairs are conducted, it is probable that differences of opinion will arise; but we appreciate the spirit with which these differences have been applied by some in office, to impeach the integrity and patriotism of those who conscientiously dissent from them on questions of public duty and expenditure, thereby creating division and dissensions, destructive of the peace, well and good government of the country, and calculated to impair the confidence of the people in the wisdom of His Majesty's advisers to give them the proper balance of constitutional power and we trust we should be wanting in candor, were we to add from Your Excellency our firm belief, that such would serve more effectually to alienate the affections of His Majesty's loyal people, and render them dissatisfied with the administration, than the long such feelings, while on the contrary, should government be administered agreeably to the meaning and spirit of our glorious Constitution, the just wishes and constitutional rights of the people duly respected, the favors and patronage of His Majesty indiscriminately bestowed on persons of rank and talent, who enjoy the confidence of the people, without regard to their political or religious opinions, and Your Excellency's Councils filled with able, wise and discreet individuals who are esteemed to respect and to be influenced by the voice, we have not the slightest apprehension the connexion between this Province and the British State would long continue to exist and be mutually advantageous to both.

MARSHALL S. BIDWELL, Speaker.

MONDAY, January 26th.

At two o'clock p. m. the House waited upon his Excellency, the Lieut. Governor, with its address in answer to his Excellency's speech from the throne, at the opening of the present session, and being read the Speaker reported that his Excellency had pleased to make thereto the following reply. Gentlemen—I thank you for the assurances in your address, that you will direct your early attention to the objects which I have recommended to your consideration.

The difficulties which the Province encounters as a small population, being dispersed over an extensive territory, may, I am persuaded, be gradually removed by your exertions. The foundation of a vast agricultural community, and will be speedily raised up, if the flow of emigration from the parent state, be diligently encouraged. In pursuing measures that are necessary to render settled townships easy of access, the immediate

profits which may be derived from canals and roads, as regards the capital employed in their construction, must be deemed of little importance compared with the value which they impart to the products of the country which they traverse, and the wealth created by the labor bestowed on them.

No subject has been more constantly brought under the notice of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly than that of Education. An efficient system can scarcely be adopted in sections of the country where settlers are widely scattered, Township schools, however, should be immediately organized, and some practical mode decided on, for applying the funds which may occur from the sale of school lands not alienated by his Majesty's Government, and which have been placed under the control of the Legislature, at the request of the House of Assembly, by the King. And I again suggest into effect the measures of the Legislature in regard to the distribution of the proceeds of these lands.

Misrepresentations, from whatever source they may arise, cannot fail to affect the welfare of the public, and the happiness of individuals, and although the devoted loyalty of the colony is established, & precisely understood, your discountenance of the unworthy efforts to which you advert in this address, will promote that moderation, temper, and allowance for a conscientious difference of opinion so requisite in political controversies, and tend to discover persons of political integrity, who will labor zealously to correct abuses without impeding public improvements—whose counsels will be serviceable to the public, while they watch over our excellent constitution of three estates—The Law of the Land—The Prerogative of the Crown—and the inherent Rights of the People.

TUESDAY, January 27th.

Mr. MacKENZIE rose to propose a motion, having for its object an enquiry into the causes which led to the dismissal of the crown officers Messrs. Hagerman and Boulton—and the reinstatement of Mr. Hagerman as solicitor general, and the appointment of Mr. Jameson, a gentleman who has no stake in the country, and without either friends or connexions; and in doing so, he remarked that no question existed, but that the house were entitled to be informed as to the causes, and he instanced several corresponding cases. In Lower Canada on the expulsion of Mr. Christie, information was not withheld, but on the contrary, when applied for, was freely communicated to the house. He saw no good reason why information should be withheld by his Excellency, which was never withheld by his Majesty's ministers in England, even although the hon. and learned solicitor general might advise to the contrary—he had not been disappointed in the answer—it was just such as he expected. It was by the advice of the hon. and learned solicitor that Lord Goderich's despatch had been sent down to the house—but he seems now to regret that it was done. No doubt, had the Executive been aware that Mr. Stanley would so soon have come into power, it would have been withheld, contrary to the evident intention of Lord Goderich, it would have been one among the many which have never seen the light, and which in all probability never will. At all events there were other matters before the committee which would give ample room for enquiry. If these matters had not a deep and important weight in the affairs of the colony, Mr. Mackenzie would not place that stress upon them that he did, but when he saw information which was never refused to individuals when they make application to the colonial office—he thought it necessary to move that his Excellency's answer with reference to the dismissal from office of Messrs. Hagerman and Boulton and the appointment of Mr. Jameson be referred to the committee on grievances.

MR. GOWAN.—The hon. member for the second riding of the county of York has complained that a gentleman has been appointed to office in this colony, without friends or connexions here; for his part he was inclined to think it the very thing we wanted! It had been objected, by that hon. gentleman himself, that this county was governed by a family compact—and in this case it could not be so.—He was well pleased with the answer given by his Excellency, it proved that he was prepared to support the rights of the crown. He did not expect that any other answer would have been returned as Mr. Stanley had already refused that information in the house of Commons, when asked for by Mr. Hume; in that house the most radical member would never have thought of making such a motion. The hon. member for the second riding of the county of York said he knew that his Excellency would send just such an answer when he made the motion, and it was therefore only made as a plausible pretext for abusing the governor; he (Mr. MacKenzie,) had no other object but to suit the narrow minds of some hon. gentlemen, and with no good intention or desire for improvement.

MR. SAMSON.—It had been stated when this address was just brought into this house, that a desire for information was the sole object of hon. gentlemen; subsequently, however, we are told by the hon. member that he was well aware that it would not be complied with. The whole object therefore of this motion was to embroil this house with his Excellency and with the intention that it might be said before the grievance committee; and do doubt that hon. gentlemen would bring in a long report or address on the subject. He thought his Excellency could not have given any other answer to the prayer of the address than that which had been given—he would oppose the motion as he had done the passage of the address.

MR. MacKENZIE thought hon. members seemed to give him great credit for long addresses, reports, &c.; he was of opinion that we ought to examine into the causes which led to the re-establishment of one of the crown officers, and the appointment of another to a situation. He was not disposed to blame his Excellency—he believed he was surrounded by bad advisers, men who could turn whig or tory to suit their purpose. If the house of Commons were to state that they were dissatisfied with the course of a crown officer he could not remain in power twenty-four hours. He wished to know who were his Majesty's advisers that if they had given bad counsel, they might be impeached. Two officers have been turned out of office, for opposing the policy of his Majesty's government, and he wished to learn the causes of their re-instatement, that this house and the country might know what were really his Majesty's views and policy. He believed that no vote of the British house of Commons had been refused for the last half century, and he did not see why, if we have the counterpart of the British constitution, we ought not to have the same attention paid to our wishes.

Several other members spoke—their speeches will be given in our next. The motion was ultimately carried.

The following is Sir John COLBORNE'S answer to the Address of the House of Assembly as to the causes of the turn-out of Hagerman and Boulton, and the appointment of the present Attorney General, and the expulsion of W. L. Mackenzie, Esq. M. P. P.