

PUBLIC MEETING.

AT A MEETING of all the Inhabitants of Saint David's, (written excepted) and Transacted in session in Niagara on Saturday the 31st of March, 1833, convened by the following Resolutions at the "Exchange Coffee House," and Adjourned to the Court Room:—

NOTICE.

AT the request of the Friends of William Lyon Mackenzie, in the District of Niagara, Notice is hereby given, that a Meeting will take place on Saturday, the 31st of March, instant, at the Exchange, in the Town of Niagara, at 12 o'clock, noon, to take into consideration the present state of the Province, and to adopt an Address to His Majesty, King William the Fourth, expressing public opinion on matters connected with the prosperity and welfare of this Colony.

Niagara, 24th of March, 1833.

"*Old Beller,*" Es. q. r. insisted upon acting as chairman, and Ned Temperance, another Es. q. r. assumed the appointment of Secretary: The chairman, fundamentally qualified for filling any chair, with that ineffable exhibit peculiar to him, scrambled into the Judiciary Room in the Court House, where the Secretary perched himself at his elbow.—After smoothing his plumes (somewhat ruffled by grasping at the chair) and assuming a minor dignity and grace, the chairman looked down upon his friends, (Mackenzie's dupes) and addressed them in the following high pressure, tone and forty strain:—

My Discontented Friends & Reformers:

THIS MEETING, according to the Notice, was called by the Friends of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie at the Exchange (to be called Reform Coffee House hereafter): much against our inclination we have come here;—we owe the place a grudge ever since last Town

W. M. Mackenzie
Wm. Lyon Mackenzie

Meeting-day. I need not advert to the fact that all St. David's has turned out, and that one or two of us must walk for the exposure incurred in their transportation here; that we passed through Queen-ston without opposition. We arrived in safety at the "Exchange" about 11 o'clock, a. m. Not finding M'Kean's there, and suspicious of being duped, we adjourned to this place; to show fight at the meeting called by the Sheriff. We are here assembled with our opponents to contend against M'Kean's *face* within their own walls—on their own grounds—we will make them *afraid of the dagger / the halberd / or the pike-bush!* But, now they see Diana in its danger / see them! see, how they shrink! see, terror strikes them! Diana is in danger!—Let the Officials come on! Reform! Reform, we will have in most shape and some where; M'Kean's for Sir John Colborne; Lawton = Don't you See? for Chief Justice; or this Court House at David's!! Gather together your Gleivants! raise up and handle your weapons! call it loyalty! call it what you will! frighten the women and the ignorant! pull the simple! astonish the credulous! threaten the dubious! assume sanctity!! It will help much. Up! and be doing!! Now, leap up and thrust in your Resolutions with the Political Pitchfork. I feel what I say: Although my Speech is unadorned, my arguments are pithy, yet not *fear-y*. I know you can sift the chaff from the bran and the middlings from the chaff. Turn over and examine my ideas in your own vacant coxers.—If in my Address I should feel, pardon me; and attribute the digression to the disorderly graving of my reform-ed brain.—To conclude, Saint David's—If we don't, in the progress of this Day's Proceedings, grind the opponents of Wm. Lyon M'Kean's in the Political Stone Mill of Democracy, may I refer myself to be run over, put through the horrors of a coal machine, or have my clapper silenced. Then fire up, my boys! axes and knives! raise steam to assault head! (but watch your safety valves; I urge burst). A Political Explosion in this District, which you know M'Kean's thinks the *Apple of his Eye*, would make an useful exposure.—Here the Chairman called for water and a white pocket handkerchief, and the assembled friends stood with hair and ears erect; eyes staring from their sockets; and their fingers straightened!!

The few moments that elapsed to enable the Chairman to fire up again and utter above, admitted of taking a peep at the characters mirrored in M'Kean's friends; and in that short interval I discovered the following distinguished Person, forming a group worthy the Pencil of Hogarth:

1st. *Count Adam Apple Tree*; The man who swore in open court, that he put "*Looper Don't you Sir*" into Parliament; the same man who bears the whole left of the variety of *Question*; and who, as an objection for *Friend-keeper*, made such a diversion that *Mr. K's*, on the points of honour, nothing like it was heard since the days of *Cicero*.

2d. *Josh Thread*, with his partisanial gaze, stood stifled as it were, *demanding* at the *Great Meeting*. "*The Voice of Lincoln*," held out his own door, carrying *Bill Keller* the exalted seat he held; opened his mouth, and in the act of ejaculating a revised groan or some less forcible exclamation, he drew down the strap on his nose.

3d. *John Lamb, M. P.* and would-be Magistrate in his own imagination; big with parliamentary importance, but deep in the mass of political popularity; felt sorry for his little political God, *Mr. K*, and wished for him when the luck was applied. This Gentleman, first a thorough *Geordyite*; afterwards, ashamed, turned *Executive* tool, then to procure a job in the *Welland Canal*, turned again; then to effect his election, wheeled again into *line*, and now stands in a permanently *ridiculous* situation.

4th. *Bill Peck Butler*, in his drab *Benjamin*, and *Pearl Buttons*, rucked his cap's eye to the Chairman, and knowingly squinted out. "*What you do'n there all the time?*"

5th. *Lawyer don't you see, M. P.* stood prominent in the group, seemed agitated within, but dared not speak—holding his ivory-headed cane in both hands; he ever and anon rose, put his feet on the seat, (the table was too high) and his arms on his knees, peeping at *Bill Keller* over the ridge of his spectacles.

6th. *Dick Keller*, brother to the Chairman, felt more than he said; and it is supposed, that, having business with *Jack Stoboy*, at the Court House, when the meeting commenced, remained to see the *Pantomim* performed.

7th. *Henry A. B. C.* only asked for information on some question about the *strong reserves*, and did it in that weak and supplicating tone of voice, that the Chairman, it is thought, would have answered the young man, if he had known how; but the *Question* was a *power*.

8th. *Chester Tick Tick* was discerned in the crowd, by his acute luminaries, yearning to be heard, but could not find words to express himself; he seemed *blown* off his balance; but with his feet for a *Pantalon*, correctly kept time with the vibrations of the chairman's cadences and flights of fancy!

108. *Tim Crystal*, with *Chaater Tick Tick's* assistance, lay next him, inserted himself horizontally in the centre of the *St. Davidson*, and formed one of the *stools* for sitting the *week* of the day in *speeches*.

109. *Henry Bird-hat*, brother of *April Tree*, was there too, used to the open, and with his *Go gun* kept himself ready to *hunt* or *go*, on circumstances of the case inquired.

110. *Bill Barrel Back*, picked up at *Clonastown*, as the procession came through, that he might pay part of the expenses, looked as if he wished himself working at the *ammunition* roll, or any where else, but in the space he occupied in the *Court* room.

111. The last of the *Group*, and not least among them, in his own imagination, was *David Redd Road*, Esq. P. M. not M. P.,—he rose up, looked round—and, "Mr. Chairman"; sat down, then rose up again, *speechless*, and almost motionless, without every inclination to cry! but refrained, on being told that *Suffering David* was kept hard by to act that part!—Other prominent Characters might be mentioned, whose attitudes, actions, and expressions, might do justice to *Hogarth*; but the limits of a *Picture* like the present, will not admit of increasing the group—suffice it to say; the meeting dispersed, to meet outside, by order of the *Chairman*; on arriving at the foot of the *Staircase*, the *Chairman* was seen seated in a *wagon*; and it is said that *Redd Temporarily* was seen beneath with pen, ink and paper in one hand, and in the other the *resolutions*, acting as *under Secretary*. Here *Bill Butler*, in the *embrasure* of his *loyalty*, raised his hat to *honor* the *William the Fourth* and the *Beloved Ministry*, when the wind and the inclination of the *horses* made him incline forward, and in the act of falling from the *stage*, was heard to utter the word "refers," in articulate accents, but was not seen after.

H. A. G.