

The Examiner.

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

Vol. II.]

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1848.

[No. 70.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—

The awful calamity of Fire has lately visited our little Town to a much greater extent than it has hitherto done; and the inhabitants, no doubt, have awakened from the slumbers of fancied security to a sense of the hidden dangers which surround them on every side. The Fire Wardens—those skilful engineers whose duty it is to superintend the work of destruction—will, doubtless, be all alive for a few days at least, and having called a meeting, and gone through the usual routine business, will again slumber into the listless inactivity that has characterised them in their official capacity for several years past.

My object, Sir, in addressing you, is to call the attention of the public to the necessity of adopting means for a more plentiful supply of water on the occasion of a fire. Without this it is in vain we exert ourselves to conquer the flames. Charlottetown, though very fortunate hitherto, is peculiarly liable to a general conflagration—being built entirely of wood; and it becomes the duty of the inhabitants to take warning by the past, and exert themselves to accomplish this end. Had there been a good supply of water at the late fire, there is no doubt it would have been got under before it reached Scott's and Cairns's dwelling houses, and consequently a great amount of property would have been saved, that is now smouldering in ruins.

A plentiful supply of water, then, is a great desideratum; but how are we to effect the desired object. I have often thought that the torrents of water which course down our streets in rainy weather might be turned to good account. Supposing that cisterns or reservoirs were sunk at proper intervals in different parts of the Town, and the gutters or sluices were properly graded, and so constructed as to conduct the water into these cisterns, think you not, Sir, we could at all times have a supply of water? These cisterns would, of course, be required to be properly arched over, with a small opening at the surface of the ground for insertion of a suction hose—this opening to be fitted with a plug or hatch, which could be raised when occasion required. I have not time at present to go into detail on the practicability of such an undertaking, suffice it to say, the plan is adopted in other places, where there are not so many facilities afforded as in Charlottetown, and has been found to answer every purpose intended. But, Sir, this is not all that is required: Our Fire Department requires to be corrected and revised. In the first place there should be a man of experience and sound judgment appointed, whose duty would be to take charge of the Fire Department at every fire—give the necessary directions with respect to the deposition of the Engines, &c. &c. This person should be empowered to appoint his own Deputies, who would assist him in carrying out the measures he might think proper to adopt, and who should be invested with the same authority as the Fire Wardens are at present, and distinguished by some peculiarity of dress. We are all aware of the diversity of opinion that prevails among the Fire Wardens at every fire—which is the occasion of much delay and confusion—resulting in the loss of property that might easily be saved under a better system of operations. I do not recollect of ever seeing a suction hose used in Charlottetown at a fire—the supply of water being entirely dependent on the formation of a double line of men to the nearest pump, which is often at such a distance from the fire as to render their services unavailing by the time they have got properly in operation, for by this time the fire has made such progress as to defy their puny efforts to stay its ravages. A proper quantity of suction hose should likewise be procured for the use of the several Engines.

The question will now naturally arise—where are we to get the means for effecting such a change in our Fire Department, as it must necessarily be accompanied with considerable expense.

Well, Mr. Editor, I suppose this will be a very difficult question to solve, though I believe there was not much difficulty experienced in procuring an additional grant of £500 per annum to the Governor's salary, and as much more for the office of Assistant Judge, besides the misapplication of numerous other grants of public money. But so it is in this devoted Colony, individuals must be provided for whilst the public good is entirely neglected or considered as of secondary importance. Was this money for two years appropriated to the purposes before mentioned, we would have an efficient Fire Department in operation, and facilities at our command to protect our homes from the devouring element.

Before I conclude, Mr. Editor, allow me to mention the praiseworthy conduct of several ladies whom I ob-

served to be actively engaged at the late fire, in passing empty buckets. This certainly should have shamed the lazy hosts who were to be seen loitering around the fire with their hands in their pockets, apparently enjoying the scene—instead of making an effort to save the property of the sufferers.

Trusting that the public will take up this matter earnestly, and adopt such measures as will protect the Town from the ravages of an extensive conflagration,

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ALARM.

December, 1848.

ROADS OF CHARLOTTETOWN ROYALTY.

Sir—

The Roads in the vicinity of Charlottetown being almost impassable, it becomes the duty of every person to offer such suggestions as to the best means of removing the evil as may occur to him.

I beg leave therefore to suggest that the principal cause of the nuisance might be removed by renting a field near the town, where the usual quantity of ploughing and digging and loitering might be performed at the accustomed season, instead of upon the roads. I have further to suggest that the performers might amuse themselves as they worked.

"Barney, let the roads alone."

Yours, &c.

PADDY O'BLARNEY.

The Editor of "The Examiner."
November 27.

LAW VERSUS GOOD LEGISLATION.

MR. EDITOR,

Allow me to put to the Electors of Charlottetown the following questions,

Have they attended to the debates in the House? If they have, must it not have been impressed upon them that the Lawyers there often endeavour to mystify the other members? One rises and says such proviso is unnecessary, because the law already is sufficient. It is not, says a plain member. It is, replies the Lawyer, and I pardon the ignorance of the honourable gentleman. The fact is, the plain man wants an ambiguity so cleared up, that of ten men who might then read the Act, not two would interpret it in different ways. Were all laws so written many lawsuits would be cut off.

Look at the proportion which the number of lawyers in the Colony bear to that of the farmers, traders and mechanics, and then say ought one eighth of the House to be composed of lawyers?

What is the interest of the lawyers? Numerous and never-ending lawsuits—darkness, uncertainty, confusion.

Were the laws written in a foreign language would not that tend to the emolument of the Bar?

Do they not so far as in them is, fill their whole proceedings up with language unintelligible to common men?

What is the interest of the farmer, trader, mechanic? One part of that interest is, that he should keep clear of law?

The lawyers are our fellow countrymen, our neighbours, our relatives, and are naturally as honest as any of us. Granted; but is it in human nature that they should slip an opportunity of forwarding the interest of their Body? That there must be lawyers so long as the English law remains in its present state, is very clear. But it is by no means clear that it is advisable to put them where they can involve our colonial laws in the same darkness. For my own part, much as has been said against the Commissioners' Courts, I would rather have a case of £50 tried before many of them than before the Supreme Court. Brother Traders and Mechanics, don't you know what abuses require to be remedied, and what interests fostered by Legislation? I know you do, and know better than the lawyers, and you have a far greater benefit in such being accomplished than the gentlemen of the gown. Can't you express in plain English what you mean? I think you can, and the Law Clerk can put enough of polish on it. The length of the Session is a disgrace to the Island, and of those who spin it out none are more to blame than the gentlemen of the gown.

Yours, &c.

A TRADER.

December 2, 1848.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1848.

Charlottetown Election.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

The *Islander* of last Friday having taken some pains to misrepresent and mystify the speeches of Mr. Palmer's opponents at the nomination on Tuesday, we feel bound to give such an outline of those speeches as will convey a proper conception of their import, though our sketch must be necessarily very meagre, from the short time within which we have to prepare it, and the little space at our disposal.

The Hon. G. COLES, in proposing W. W. LORR, Esq., as a Candidate, said, he believed him to be a man who had the real interests of the country at heart; and from the extensive business in which he is engaged, as well as from the well-known independence and integrity of his character, it might be fairly presumed that he (Mr. Lorr) would not be the man to saddle the country with a permanent tax of one thousand pounds a year for the sake of getting himself an office. He (Mr. Coles) would take that opportunity to notice the excuse which had been, and would be offered by Mr. Palmer and his friends for voting the addition to the Governor's Salary: the excuse was, that the Imperial Government would not have consented to the re-enactment of the Land Tax unless the augmentation was made to the Governor's Salary; and that the Party with which he (Mr. Coles) is connected would have done the same thing for Sir H. V. Huntley, which they blame Mr. Palmer's Party for doing for Sir Donald Campbell. The Despatch which he (Mr. Coles) would then read to them, would shew that the former excuse was untenable; and as to the allegation that the Liberal Party would have increased Sir Henry's Salary, he denied that there was any foundation for it. The Liberal Party never held out to Sir Henry a promise on the subject, and he (Mr. Coles) knew they were as determined to resist the increase in Sir Henry's time as they had been in the last Session. (Mr. C. then read the Despatch alluded to by him, which is as follows):

"Downing Street, 12th November, 1847.

"The next point to which I am desirous of directing your attention is the Land Tax.

"I can see no objection to the renewal of this Tax.—On the contrary, I am of opinion that in the present circumstances of Prince Edward Island, it is by far the best mode that could be adopted for providing for the necessary expenditure of the Colony. I should even be prepared to advise the Queen to sanction any Law which might be passed by the local Legislature for raising a larger proportion of the Colonial Revenue from this source, so as to admit a reduction of Duties, with a view to the encouragement of the Trade of the Colony. I would suggest, however, that the Tax should be levied at the same rate per Acre upon all Lands, whether the same be improved or unimproved."

Now, continued the hon. gentleman, Lord Grey says nothing about the Governor's Salary—his object in recommending the re-enactment of the Land Tax, was to create a fund to enable a reduction to be made in the duties on articles of general consumption, and thus give increased facilities to the prosecution of trade; and it could not be denied that there never was a time when the trade of the Island stood more in need of encouragement than it does now—when ship-building is found to be a ruinous business, and when a succession of failures in crops has accumulated great distress. If those failures continue we would inevitably have to fall back upon the Fisheries as our only remaining resource, but what support would we have reason to expect from Mr. Palmer on this subject? Last Session a Bill was introduced by one of his (Mr. C's) party, with the view of encouraging the Cod Fishery, but Mr. Palmer voted against it, because, as he said, the country could not afford to give a bounty: yet, the country could afford