On the 42nd clause being read, Hon. Mr. Dingwell objected to it on account of one Magistrate being competent to decide in cases where drains require to be made through private property for the purpose of draining a road; and, after some desultory debate, it was amended by inserting the word "two."

House resumed, and progress reported.

The Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, Elliot River, Lot 65, was then committed and agreed to without any amendment.

The House then went into committee on the Bill to incorporate the Victoria Lodge of Free Masons.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—From what I have seen and heard of Free Masons, I thought they were a body so pure and perfect that they did not require an Act of this nature.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I am glad to hear that his Honor Mr. Ramsay has such an exalted opinion of Free Masons. But though we do not require this Act for the management of our internal affairs, yet we have sometimes to deal with others outside—with men of the world, or with unbelievers, if I may use that term, and for that purpose an act of this nature is necessary. I would be happy to introduce his Honor into the mysteries of Masonry—to let him ride upon the goat or sit on the gridiron, as I think he is worthy.

House resumed. Chairman reported Bill agreed to without any amendment.

WEDNESDAY, 9th April.

A Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, Elliot River, Lot 65, and a Bill to incorporate the Victoria Lodge of Free Masons were read the third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Palmer, a Member of the Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid on the table copies of two Despatches from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle; one relating to the expenses of the Land Commission, the other to the Appendix to the Land Commissioner's Report.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I regret, Mr. President, that we have not obtained a copy of the Appendix to the Report of the Land Commissioners, which is supposed to contain a great deal of useful and interesting information; but the reason is a very pleasing one. His Excellency made an application to the Colonial Office for it, and the reply was that only one copy had been received at that Office and it had not been printed. His Excellency has since made an application to the Commissioners, which I am confident will be more successful. Before I sit down I cannot but acknowledge the liberality of the Imperial Government in contributing an amount to the Commissioners in addition to that which they were formerly promised. I do not think that even now, when each of the Commissioners receives £400 in place of £200, that they are overpaid. When we consider that they left their own business, and spent week after week in this Island, and afterwards in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, attending to the business connected with the Commission, we cannot say that they have received too much. With respect to the request of His Grace to remit the £200 promised to our Commissioner, I have to say that amount has already been remitted. It was paid to Mr. Howe when he was on the Island last summer. The Home Government will return to this Island the amount paid to Mr. Whitman, and will also pay all the other expenses of the Commission, with the exception, I suppose, of the Counsel on behalf of the Tenantry. This shows that they are not thoughtless of us; they have extended a liberality which is very praiseworthy.

Hon. Mr. PALMER, on rising to move the order of the day for the second reading of the "Bill to change the constitution of the Legislative Council, by rendering the same elective," said—This Bill, Mr. President, as you are aware, is a copy of the Bill passed last year, except that it adopts the modifications suggested by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle. Your Honors are well aware of what is contained in his Grace's despatch—that he accedes to the principle of an elective Legislative Council; and the Bill having passed this House last year with such a large majority, I hardly expect to find any great difference of opinion now as to the elective principle being applicable to this Chamber. It is hardly necessary for me to say that my own mind has not undergone any change. It was a long time before I came to the conclusion that the elective principle would be applicable to the circumstances of this Colony; but my experience in both branches of the Legislature has convinced me that it is. I believe there are many persons who entertain a different opinion; but if they were experienced in practical legislation, I think they would be induced to give way to the principle of this Bill. I look upon it that the Colony may do well enough for a time with a nominative Council; but we will always be liable to a collision as parties change in the other branch of the Legislature. As this Council is constituted at present, I think I may safely say that it enjoys the confidence of the country, and we are disposed to demean ourselves so as to prevent a collision with the other branch; but this is a desirable state of matters which cannot always be calculated upon; for as long as universal suffrage is in operation we cannot tell what changes may be brought about. There may then be an urgent demand for a change in this Council. Now, I think it is better, while we have the Colonial Minister with us, to take him at his offer. I think this Bill is framed on safe principles. I was one of those who voted last year for universal suffrage, or more properly speaking, to have no qualification but what is required to elect members for the House of Assembly. That opinion was not originally my own; but I gave way to those with whom I am associated. I see very clearly the force of His Grace's suggestions to have a qualification in the electors, and also that it would not be advisable to require a property qualification with reference to the elected. Now, it is true that the march of progress has induced a great change in the minds of the British people as to doing away with property qualifications. Thirty years ago no man would have thought that they would have acceded to such a fundamental change in their constitution. And if we look at it fairly and impartially, we must see that if the electors are well qualified men, they will be likely to exercise their privilege in such a way as to return men of sound and safe principles, whether the elected have any property qualification or not. Property alone, as a general rule, does not constitute sound judgment, though men who possess real estate are not that moving transitory set of persons who would be objectionable as electors for members for the upper Chamber, which, in the words of the Duke of Newcastle, should represent the staid and settled sentiments of the people rather than their transitory impulses. I am quite prepared to adopt his Grace's views in this respect. The Bill fixes the qualification of the electors at £100. I do not know whether there were any division in the other House with respect to this amount; nor am I quite certain what opinions the members of this House may have on that point. It is not a vital principle, however, as long as there is a tolerably high qualification the end is gained. There is another point on which this Bill differs from the one which was passed last year. By the Bill of last year the member was required to have his place of residence or his property qualification in the district for which he was elected; and there was a considerable difference of opinion on this point. I do not think the member should be confined to the county or district. I consider that it is a privilege to allow the electors to choose a man in the county or out of it. No stranger can be elected without their consent and sanction. They have the power to say whether Mr. So-and So shall be elected or not, and that is sufficient. On the other hand, if there be a majority who clearly see that there is a certain gentleman who lives beyond the bounds of the district, whose principles they highly approve of, and whose ability and integrity they can rely upon, it would surely be a privilege to be allowed to select him. I think it would be a very impolitic law that would prohibit his election. We know that Englishmen are frequently returned from constituencies in Ireland, and there are some instances of men from Ireland being returned from constituencies in England and in Scotland. Why is it so? Simply because they think those men can serve them better. It is therefore a privilege to the electors, and I would allow them to exercise it. I am not particularly wedded to the details of the Bill. If parties wish to modify the details without endangering the Bill, I shall not oppose them; but I hope that, for the sake of the country, the Bill will be passed through both branches, with as little change as possible, because I am assured, from what I hear and know, that this Bill is as nearly adapted to the circumstances and state of the country as it is possible for us to frame a Bill. It will put an end to very serious questions which have risen, and may rise again with regard to the constitution of this Council. If the constitution of this Council is changed in the manner contemplated by this Bill, we may take it for granted that we will never hear such questions again as have arisen heretofore. I need only add that I have no doubt but if this Bill become law, in its present shape, it will give satisfaction to the people of this Colony; and I trust that it will give proof of its utility. This Council will then earn the gratitude of the country at large; for when gentlemen are seen acting from motives of such pure and disinterested patriotism they will receive the praise and esteem of their fellow countrymen.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON, on rising to second the motion for the second reading of the Bill, said—It is unnecessary for me, Mr. President, after the remarks made, and explanation given by his Honor, the leader of the Government, to enter into any particulars. The principle of the Bill, as you are aware, has been acceded to by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle. His Grace has also condescended to make certain suggestions respecting the details of the Bill, and by which, if they are adopted, it will be slightly modified. I am disposed to adopt those suggestions. I think the principle laid down by His Grace is a very sound one. He wishes to have the qualification in the electors, not in the elected. There is one clause, however, in this Bill, which was not in the Bill of last year, which has not been suggested by His Grace the Secretary of State, and to which I am not inclined to accede. That is to the effect that Members of this House, accepting office shall forfeit their seats. I do not think there is any precedent in the British Constitution for, or any analogy to the House of Lords, in this clause. It is the opinion of His Grace that this House should hold an independent position in any emergency that might arise. It is admitted that there is a necessity for an Upper Chamber; and, if we look at that Branch of the British Parliament which we are supposed to resemble, we see that it is independent of any constituency. The principle of having a Legislative Council elected for life, has been discussed, the object being to have that Branch independent both of the Crown and of the people. Now, if this Bill go into operation with that clause in its present shape, any gentleman who should be elected to a seat in this House, and should be afterwards led to accept an office, would be rendered doubly responsible to the people, which, of course would destroy the independence of this Branch of the Legislature.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—After mature reflection on the Bill passed last year, my judgment is confirmed with reference to the elective principle, as applied to the Upper Chamber, being adapted to the Colony in its present state. I have not only made up my mind with regard to the principle of the Bill, but I consider that the alterations which have been suggested by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, are good; and we should be thankful to His Grace for making those suggestions, as well as for acceding to the principle of the Bill, so that we may have an Upper Chamber which, while it is a check upon hasty legislation, will, at the same time, enjoy the confidence of, and be profitable to, the country at large.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—when this Bill was first introduced, it was said that the object was to give the people greater privileges; but, when nearly one-third of the population will be cut off from the privilege of voting, I do not see how the same arguments can be made to apply. It was to give the people more control over this Board; but when a qualification of £100 is required of the electors, it will certainly disfranchise a large portion of the community. I must say that the people in the country regard their oaths, and they will not swear to a qualification unless their property is worth more than £100. I do not suppose that it is the intention of your Honors to do an injustice to the people; and I am happy to hear that his Honor Mr. Palmer believes that this Council, as at present constituted, enjoys the confidence of the people. Now, we are on the eve of a general election, and it will cause a great deal of excitement to have an election for both Houses in one year, which will be the case if this Bill passes; nor do I think our Revenue is in a fit state to bear the expense. I believe the people in my part of the country would much rather have the money laid out in improvements such as wharfs and break-waters. I do not see why we should interfere with what is already very well, though I have no objection to the power of the people being extended.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—When the Bill was before us last year, I believe I was the mover of the Resolution to have the Member's place of residence or his property qualification in the District for which he was elected; and, though I am still of the same opinion, yet, if your Honors think that it would be narrowing down the privileges of the people, I will not contend for it, for I can assure your Honors that I would rather extend than contract their privileges.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—My opinion upon this Bill is precisely the same as that which I expressed last year, and I may add that it has always been unchanged with regard to the constitution of this Council. Therefore I do not look upon this Bill with any more favor than I looked upon the Bill of last year. Last year we admitted the principle of the Bill, reserving to ourselves the right to offer such amendments as we thought proper. We offered those amendments, but they were not carried. We then submitted protests against this Bill, and I believe that the observations of His Grace the Secretary of State have been called forth by those protests which we prepared; for I have no doubt but His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor forwarded those protests to His Grace, calling his attention to them. I am not going to stand here as an obstructive to any measure for the good of the country. I may be told that a large majority of the House of Assembly have acceded to the principle of this Bill; but I am not prepared to say that a large majority of the inhabitants of the Colony have asked for the measure. I would ask your Honors to point to one expression of public opinion demanding a reconstruction of the constitution of this House. It is true there is a little political clique in Charlottetown which says that this Council shall be reconstructed; it was organized for special purposes, and when those purposes are accomplished we will hear no more of them. It was through this clique that this Bill came before your Honors, and surely your Honors are not prepared to yield to such a clique. But for my hon. friend to say that this measure has been asked for by the country is most extraordinary. I have not seen one single petition asking for it. Then his Honor Mr. Simpson appears before your Honors and tells us that this House shall be independent both of the Crown and of the People for a limited time. Do not your Honors feel as independent now as you ever did in your lives? Where is the slightest pressure of either the Crown or the People as we are now constituted? For my part, I have never felt the slightest. To talk then about this House being dependent now, or to say that it will be independent of the people when it will have to be elected every four years, is shere nonsense. When the Members of this House are elected, they will have to account to the people for every vote they give; and some of us know the pressure made to bear on Members of the other House. They often have to give votes contrary to their consciences; therefore, to talk of being independent of the people, when you are elected by the people, is shere nonsense. Then his Honor Dr. Johnson comes forward and says that this measure is best adapted to the circumstances of the country. Now, I cannot agree with his Honor; and I think if he had more experience, he would be of a different opinion. And if this Bill go into operation, I am confident, that before three or four years elapse, each of your honors will say that it was not calculated to be advantageous to the country. What! Do we not glory in our constitution being assimilated to the glorious constitution of Britain? What are you endeavoring to make it now? You are endeavoring to assimilate it to the constitution of a neighboring Republic; and what is that Republic now? It is shivered almost to atoms; and why should we assimilate our constitution to it even in the slightest degree? If you do so you will find that it will be injurious to the best interests of this Colony. With regard to the details of the Bill, I will say nothing at present—we will have an opportunity when the House is in committee; but I wish to say a word with reference to the Despatch. I think His Grace deserves credit for the amplification which he has given the subject. He has his own ideas on the subject; and the language of the Despatch is worthy of a Statesman. I would ask if the House of Assembly has carried out the suggestions of that Despatch, one of which is—"I would enforce a tolerably high qualification with regard to the electors." And do you suppose that the sum of £66 13s. 4d. sterling will be considered a tolerably high qualification? If you think His Grace will be satisfied with it, I think you will find that you are mistaken. If I thought that the country really desired this measure, I would break down every barrier in order that they might obtain it; but I do not think they desire it. Nor do I think it is necessary in order to facilitate the business of the country. I think the public business has always been carried on in this House—I say in this House, with as much despatch as necessary. I have always been of opinion that the Members of this House should not be paid; but while I admit the principle of the Bill I am confident that the details will not be satisfactory, should it ever become law in its present shape.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—I am really surprised to see the change that has come over the minds of hon. Members since last year. Last year they were for having the qualification of candidates to an enormous height. I done all I could to have their property qualification as low as possible. Again they were determined to have the Members confined to their own counties. Now, all are gone from that. If we are to be governed by the Duke of Newcastle in this way, I think he might just as well have written the law for us; but I think there are people here who know just as well as the Duke what suits the circumstances of the country. Are we to submit to the dictation of the Secretary of State for the time being, who is in office for a few years, a few months, or, it may be, only a few weeks, and pass any law which he thinks desirable? In my opinion this Board has already consented to the elective franchise. When the Liberal party were in power they agreed to have what I may call universal suffrage, and they lost power by it. When this Bill was brought forward, the present party adopted the same universal suffrage. The Bill came up here and we adopted it. And now, to turn round all at once, in obedience to the dictates of the Duke of Newcastle, and say that we must have a high property qualification is more than I can consent to. I am still of opinion that the candidates should have a pretty high qualification, but not too high. His Grace says no, we must have the qualification in the electors. Now, I think we have a right to judge for ourselves in this matter; and I hope the Members of this Board will not be swayed by the dictates of His Grace.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I would like to hear the opinions of the country members. For my part I do not think the people in the country desire an elective Council.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON—I think the people in the country do desire it. I supported the measure last year, and I intend to do so again.

Hon. Mr. WALKER—My opinion is that if the majority of the people in the country desired an elective Council, they would have petitioned for it. There are some very great objections to this measure; one of which is that it will be attended with a great deal of expense; and I do not think our Revenue is in a fit state to warrant the expenditure. But if the country will be benefitted by it, they will have to pay for it. However, I admitted the principle of the Bill last year, and I have no particular objection to do the same this year.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I rise, Mr. President, to make a few observations in reply to what has fallen from two or three hon. members. And first to his Honor Mr. Dingwell, whose principal objection is, that this Bill limits the privileges of the people, because it does not extend to universal suffrage. The privileges of the people, it is true, will not be so extensive as was contemplated by the Bill of last year; but surely his Honor will admit that it will be a vast increase to their privileges when compared with what they now enjoy. I believe in the old saying that it is better to take justice by instalments than not get it at all. How are the Members of this Board appointed at present? When a vacancy occurs, it is made known to His Excellency, who, at the next meeting of the Executive Council, informs that body that Mr. So-and-So has vacated his seat, and asks if any member has any person to suggest. Well, I may please to nominate Mr. A. B.; another member will nominate Mr. C. D. His Excellency considers the matter, and finds that they are both suitable persons; he has no objection to either. He then puts the question—which shall be the man? and when a division is taken, four members appear for A. B., and five for C. D. His Excellency must then decide in favor of C. D. The appointment is then made by His Excellency, and five members of his Government. Surely there is a wide comparison between the privileges of the people in this case and that which it is contemplated to give them by the provisions of this Bill, when every man in the Colony whose property is worth £100 currency, will have a voice in appointing him. There is a very marked distinction. This is the way it restricts the liberties of the people. It has been urged as an objection by his Honor the President, that this measure has not been asked for by the country; but I think his Honor's memory does not serve him, or mine does not serve me; for it strikes me that petitions have been received from the country asking for the change. But it is immaterial whether petitions have been received or not, for the feelings of the country are known and expressed through their representatives. It is well known that they have been urged to pass this measure, and when we find a large majority in the House of Assembly contending for it, we may take it for granted that it is desired by the people. If it only emanated from a clique in Charlottetown, we would make very little progress with the measure through this House; and I think you will find that the supporters of the Bill in the House of Assembly are not composed of a Charlottetown clique.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I did not say that the political clique represented the inhabitants of Charlottetown.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I feel assured that if the matter rested with the people and with the influence of Charlottetown, this measure would not be asked for. And if this Council were to continue as it is at present constituted, it would be influenced to a greater extent by Charlottetown than it is at present; for it is a very onerous burden for gentlemen to come here and attend to the public business at their own expense. In fact, they are conferring a favour upon the Government of the day when they do so. If I were called upon to nominate members for this House, I could soon fill it up with persons from Charlottetown. But we know the result; there would soon be an outcry raised from both parties in the country. So then this measure is asked by the country, not by Charlottetown. The Political Alliance is composed of members in Charlottetown who endeavour to get acquainted with the feelings of the country, and that is the secret of their success. I must say that his Honor, Mr. Hutchinson, has commented very severely on the members of this House for following too closely the dictates of the Colonial Minister. Now, I must say that I am not anxious to follow subserviently the dictates of the Secretary of State merely because they emanate from that source; but I never despise good counsel, especially when it is offered by friends, and I believe the Duke is a true friend. That Despatch is not written in a dictatorial tone, but breaths a warm feeling which shows that he has the interest of the Colony at heart. He may be wrong, and I may be wrong in advocating this Bill; but I take what I believe to be the expression of opinion of a large portion of the inhabitants. I think I am perfectly justified in voting for this Bill and seizing the suggestions thrown out by that Statesman, even though he happens to be the Duke of Newcastle. Again, the Bill is objected to on account of the expense which will attend its operation, and perhaps this is one of the strongest objections to it. It will add very materially to our expenses, which already exceed our income; not that any of our Public Officers are over paid; but I believe we have too large a number of Representatives. For that reason the expenses of the Legislature are largely swelled. But though it does add expense, if the principle is a sound one, and is really necessary, then the expense should not be grumbled at. It will have to be paid by the people who demand the measure. They cannot turn round and say here is an item which should not be incurred. I think, however, that I shall offer one amendment, or additional clause, when the House is in committee, it is with regard to the mode of holding scrutinies. I have seen that the present system works with great disadvantage to all parties who are honestly inclined. I have seen a scrutiny held by a Sheriff when party feeling was not attempted to be disguised, and where perjury was almost commended. Men were induced to swear falsely, and the Sheriff had no power to control the Court. If there be an election for a member for this House, and it is considered that bad votes have turned it against him, he should have a fair trial whether they are good or bad. If the power were invested in one of the Judges of the Supreme Court in place of the Sheriff, I think it would be an improvement.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—Adopt the same mode with the House of Assembly too.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Yes, with the House of Assembly too. And I would say that the Judges' decision should be final. It depends upon deeds and titles—it is purely a question of law—the value of the property must be determined by living witnesses. The Judges are not over worked. I would give the Judge the same power to maintain order as he holds in the Supreme Court. Then we might expect to see justice prevailing; for the Judges are sworn to act impartially, and they would act *without* political bias in holding a scrutiny equally as in trying a political libel in the Supreme Court.

Hon. Mr. GARDINER—I have heard a great deal both for and against the Bill, and I am prepared to support the principle, but I do not promise to support all the details. I believe this Bill is carrying out the wishes of the people; but at the same time I scarcely agree with one of your Honors who have spoken as to the qualification of the electors. I think the qualification should be higher; and when the House go into Committee, I will move that it be £150. I do not think that will be too high, if you want to secure intelligent electors, for the poor are generally the ignorant. A man who comes here, and gets hold of a small piece of land, and who is on the Island for twelve months, has just as much to say as one who has been here all his life. I therefore contend that the qualification should be higher than it is. I do not exactly know what His Grace means by a tolerably high qualification, but I do not suppose that he will consider £100 currency tolerably high.

House adjourned.

SPRING.

A flash of green is on the boughs,
  A warm breath panteth in the air,
  And in the earth a heart-pulse there
Throbs underneath her breast of snows.

Life is astir among the woods,
  And by the moor, and by the stream,
  The year, as from a torpid dream,
Wakes in the sunshine on the buds.

Wakes up in music as the song
  Of wood bird wild and loosen'd rill
  More frequent from the windy hill,
Comes greening forest aisles along.

Wakes up in beauty as the sheen
  Of woodland pool the gleams receives
  Through bright flowers o'er braided leaves,
Of broken sunlights, golden green.

She sees the outlaw'd winter stay
  Awhile, together after him
  Snow robes, frost-crystalled diadem,
And then in soft showers pass away.

She could not love rough winter well,
  Yet cannot choose but mourn him now;
  So wears awhile on her young brow
His gift—a gleaming icicle.

Then turns her, loving, to the sun,
  Upheaves her bosom's swell to his,
  And, in the joy of his first kiss,
Forgets for aye that sterner one.

Old winter's pledge from her he reaves—
  That icy-cold, though glittering spar—
  And zones her with a green cymar,
And girdles round her brow with leaves.

The primrose and wood-violet
  He tangles in her shining hair,
  And teaches elfin breezes fair
To sing her some sweet canzonet.

All promising long summer hours,
  When she in his embrace shall lie,
  Under the broad dome of bright sky,
On mossy couches starr'd with flowers,

Till she smiles back again to him
  The beauty beaming from his face,
  And, robed in light, glows with the grace
Of Eden-palaced cherubim.

O earth, thy glowing loveliness
  Around our very hearts has thrown
  An undimmed joyance all its own,
And sunned us o'er with happiness.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORAL DEGRADATION IN SWEDEN.

No. 11.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR—As certain parties are leaving no effort untried to excite the prejudices of the Protestants of this Island against their Catholic fellow-colonists, by representing the people of Catholic countries as naturally more ignorant and more immoral than those of Protestant ones, I may be permitted to prove to our Protestant friends that such is not the case. In my last letter I showed too clearly the state of deplorable ignorance in which millions of the inhabitants of Great Britain live; in the present communication I purpose to show, from the most respectable Protestant source, the deplorable state of morals in Sweden, the most Protestant country in the world; but before doing so I shall make a few observations on Lower Canada, which Mr. Laird and other writers of the same class cease not to stigmatize as being ignorant and superstitious. You are aware, Sir, that Lower Canada is chiefly Catholic, and Upper Canada chiefly Protestant. Now, I doubt whether there is a more moral people in Christendom than the French Canadians of Lower Canada; they are at least very, very far superior in this respect to the Protestants of Upper Canada. That this is the case, I shall very clearly show by the most satisfactory of proofs, viz., figures.

From the "Annual Report of the Board of Inspectors for Asylums, Prisons, &c. for 1861," published by order of the Government of Canada, we learn, that on the 31st Dec., 1860, there were in the Kingston Penitentiary—"the common receptacle of the moral guilt of both sections of the Province"—529 Protestant convicts, and 254 Catholic convicts. During 1860, 255 convicts were discharged; of this number 161 were Protestants and 94 Catholics. Of the 784 convicts in the Penitentiary, Upper Canada furnished 586 and Lower Canada 198. If the upper section of Canada is not duly represented in the Provincial Parliament, it certainly is in the Kingston Penitentiary. The following is a table of the number of "Convicts received in the Provincial Penitentiary," from 1856 to 1860, published at page 7:

Year.	Upper Canada.	Lower Canada.
1856	194	80
1857	179	49
1858	238	67
1859	226	30
1860	167	63
Total	1,004	289

From these official statistics we learn that Protestant Upper Canada, the population of which very little exceeds that of Lower Canada, returns yearly to the Provincial Penitentiary more than two hundred representatives, whereas the latter returns not quite fifty-eight. I think it is quite evident from this that the people of Lower Canada are not more immoral than those of Upper Canada. Will Mr. Laird favor his readers with the above statistics and explain the ethical paradox of enlightened Upper Canada, *furnishing* nearly four times as many inmates for the Penitentiary as "benighted" Lower Canada!

Are those who speak so sneeringly of the ignorance of the French Canadians aware that *there* are in Lower Canada a great number of educational establishments among which are no fewer than at least thirteen Catholic Colleges, viz;—St Anns, Quebec, Nicolet, St. Hyacinth, Terrebonne, St. Therese, St. Sulpice, Montreal, St. Mary's, Sherbrooke, Point Levi, Three Rivers, Chambly, Assumption. The number of students attending these colleges is great; for example, there are about four hundred attending the Seminary of Quebec. At this College, as well as at others, the students go through a complete course of humanities and philosophy which occupies about ten years. There is also in Quebec the Laval University, an institution of the very first class, everything in connection with which is on the most magnificent scale. Its library, cabinet of physics and cabinet of mineralogy, are, perhaps, unequalled on this continent. I need not mention the numerous excellent schools kept by the Ladies of the Congregation of Notre Dame, of the Providence, by the Ursulines, the Christian Brothers, &c. I think if Mr. Laird made a tour through Lower Canada he would entertain, regarding it, opinions quite different from those which he at present shares with many others. He would learn at least that some of the editors of P. E. Island would cut but a very sorry figure in Canada, and that if "illiterate agitators" *indulged there in the violent* tirades with which they disgrace the press of this colony, they would be made to understand even by their co-religionists that there public writers are neither dispensed from the observance of the commandment which says "thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour," nor permitted with impunity to outrage the most sacred feelings of their neighbours who may choose to worship God in a *manner different from* themselves. In concluding these remarks on Canada, I would direct Mr Laird's attention to the following extract from the Quebec 'Morning Chronicle' (Protestant):—

"Were the Protestant majority of Upper Canada as tolerant in their tone, and as considerate in their *regard for the rights of their Catholic neighbours*, as the Catholic majority of Lower Canada have shewn themselves to be in their relations to the Protestant population, the western demagogues who have traded upon religious antipathies, and manufacture capital *from sectional jealousies*, would have starved out long ago."

Our Island "*demagogues who have traded on re*ligious antipathies," may apply to themselves as much of the above as will suit them.

I shall now pass to Sweden. Mr. Laing, the Scotch Presbyterian traveller, from one of whose works I before quoted, says:—

"It is a singular and embarrassing fact that the Swedish nation, isolated from the mass of the European people, and almost entirely agricultural or pastoral, having in about 3,000,000 of individuals only 14,925 employed in manufactories, and these not congregated in one or two places, but scattered among 2037 factories; having no great standing army or navy; no extended commerce; no afflux of strangers; no considerable city but one; and having schools and universities in a fair proportion, and a powerful and complete church establishment undisturbed in its labors by sect or schism; is, notwithstanding, in a more demoralized state than any nation in Europe—more demoralised even than any equal portion of the dense manufacturing population of Great Britain." (Tour in Sweden—Laing, London, 1839, p 108.)

Mr. Laing then proceeds to prove his assertion by the criminal statistics of various countries. At page 112 he continues thus:—"In despite, however, of the demoralising effects of a maladministration of law, and of religious and political discord and excitement to outrage, the Irish nation stands very far above the Swedish in the moral scale. In the nearly eight millions of the Irish there are 5644 fewer commitals for criminal offences, and 8039 fewer convictions, within one year, than in the scarcely three millions of the Swedish nation. These are singular results, and very unexpected, when we consider the cuckoo-cry repeated until nothing else can be heard of the crime, vice, and social disorganization of Ireland, which by common consent is placed at the very bottom of the list of civilized nations; while Sweden is as generally held up to be a country eminently moral.....The proportion also of illegitimate *to legitimate births in this country leads to the same* conclusion. It is as 1 to 2 3-10 (!) in Stockholm. In no other Christian community is there a state of female morals approaching to this."

When Mr. Laing made this fearful revelation, the Swedish legation in London attempted to refute it; but our Presbyterian traveller in a rejoinder proved by unanswerable statistics all his assertions. He *showed* that in 1838, "the divorces were 147, the suicides 172. Of the 2,714 children born in Stockholm, 1,577 were legitimate, 1,137 illegitimate; making only a balance of 440 chaste mothers out of 2814; and the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate *children, not as one to two and three tenths, but* AS ONE TO ONE AND A HALF"!! Mr. Laing says:—"Figures do not bring home to our imaginations the moral condition of a population so depraved as that of Stockholm. In such a society the offspring of *secret adultery*, and the births merely saved from illegitimacy by the tardy marriage of the parents, must be numerous in proportion to the general profligacy. If it were possible to deduct these from the one side of the account and add them to the other, *to which morally they belong*, what a *singular* picture of depravity on a great scale this city presents. Suppose a traveller standing in the streets of Edinburgh, and able to say from undeniable public returns, 'one out of every three persons passing me is, *on an average*, the offspring of illicit intercourse; and one out of every forty-nine has been convicted within these twelve months of some criminal offence'! The remarkably low moral feeling in this community appears from the following fact. In all large cities in the present age, houses of ill fame—brothels where they do exist—are silently tolerated by the local authorities....But to openly establish such where they did not exist before, under authority of government, and as one of its public institutions, for the health *or morals* of the people; to hire an hotel for such a purpose in a principal street; collect unfortunate females to live in it, and give out a code of regulations for their conduct towards the public, appears a trait rather from the history of the twelfth than of the nineteenth century (I am not aware that an abomination like this existed in the twelfth century). It is scarcely credible, yet this was done within these three years here; and the establishment was only abandoned because the wretched inmates fell victims to the barbarity of the regulations. It would be difficult to find perhaps in any town in Europe, at the prssent day, such another instance of low moral feeling in the governing and governed." (p. 116.)

Mr. Laing further on says:—"The clergy are fairly endowed, well lodged, and in general on good *terms* with their flocks, they are also well educated men, and form a body of great power in the state, the chamber of clergy being one of the constituent parts of the diet. Yet with *all* these exterior signs of a religious state of the public mind, and with all the means of a powerful church establishment, unopposed by sect or schism, to make it religious, it is evident from the official returns of crime, that in no Christian community has religion less influence on the state of public morals. The just inference is.... that the Reformation, as far as regards the moral condition of the Swedish people, has done harm rather than good....Rude and ignorant as the Irish Catholic population are, their priesthood keeps them free from such a list of heavy crimes as Lutheran Sweden presents from her rural population alone." (p. 126). "For propriety of dress and demeanour the town (Stockholm) might be peopled by vestals, yet one third of the infants are bastards. I confess I do not like this either in a people or in an individual....The man is much nearer to virtue who appears worse than he is, than the man who appears better."

Mr. Laird tells his readers that with Catholics "Ignorance is the mother of devotion." Will he inform us what is the mother of devotion for the Swedes? Is it base hypocrisy, or the practice of the doctrine—"Si nolit domina, veniat ancilla"? He will probably say that it is a very large admixture of both. Our Presbyterian author gives the Swedes an exceedingly low character in every respect. "The people," says he, "are in fact, as superstitious and priest-ridden as in the darkest ages"! "The Lutheran Church, in fact, is in the present age, as far behind the religious wants of mankind as the Catholic Church was in the days of Luther. I am aware that such an opinion must shock many pious and good men, who believe that religion gained by the Reformation everything that could be desired; but let them look at this country, in which the pure Luthern church, filled with men unquestionably more highly educated, as a body, than the Scotch, or perhaps any other body of clergy in Europe, flourishes without dissent, and with great civil and political power as a part of the state; and look at the moral condition of the Swedish people." (p. 249). "It is a discouraging and humiliating reflection that the general diffusion of education and religious knowledge, which so many good and enlightened men are so *anxiously wishing and striving* among us, has been attained, perhaps, to the very utmost practicable extent in this country, in which all can read, almost all write, and no individual is without religious instruction, and a competent knowledge of Christianity—and yet with *such unsatisfactory* results on the moral and civil condition of the people." (p. 275).

Mr. Laing, towards the end of his "Tour in Sweden," writes:—"Notwithstanding this powerful, effective, and complete church establishment, and notwithstanding this very wide diffusion of education and religious instruction by parental and clerical tuition, and by an extensive and efficient national establishment of public schools suitable to all classes, the Swedish nation stands amongst the lowest in the scale of morality;—no other three millions of moral beings in Europe appear to commit, within a given time, so large an amount of crime and moral transgressions." (p. 426.)

The above extracts from the work of a Scotch Presbyterian gentleman, require no comment; they, of themselves, speak volumes. Mr Laing's account of the abominably low state of morals in Lutheran Sweden will, without doubt, startle those who have labored under the delusion that Protestant countries are superior to others in every respect, and will probably have the effect of shaming Mr. Laird and his assistants into silence regarding the "ignorance and superstition of Romish countries," and the results of Catholic education. It would be well for evangelical witnesses to cast the beam out of their own eyes before they volunteer their services to pluck the mote out of those of their neighbours.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
A. McDONALD.

St. Dunstan's College, April 11th, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—In a communication over my signature in the 'Examiner' of the 17th ult. I gave *currency* to a "report" in circulation, that the Rev. George Sutherland, *when lecturing on the* Whim Road, had uttered expressions not now to be named. Mr. Sutherland, in the 'Islander' of the 21st ult., has denied the "report" in "strong language."

I now beg to corroborate that denial, and also to say, upon the testimony of several parties voluntarily given, that it was a Rev. Mr. Sutherland who visited the Island last fall, and who is a person who has "distinguished" himself on former occasions in the Island.

I shall leave the Rev. G. Sutherland to reconcile his "strong language" with a "conscience void of offence" as best he can.

Respectfully,
MANOAH ROWE.

Montague Bridge, April 4, 1862.

UNLICENSED BOOK PEDLARS A GREAT NUISANCE.

MR. WHELAN—DEAR SIR—I believe that you and the other journalists of Charlottetown have warned *the public against being further imposed* on by Yankee pedlars selling worthless trash of books for four times their value. But, Sir, has it occurred to you and your *confreres* that others besides Yankess can go about imposing on the public by selling worthless books at an enormous price? It is certain that impostors of this kind, whether they are Yankees, Islanders or Nova Scotians, are an intolerable nuisance to any community, and I think the matter demands immediate legislative interference. As you are honored by a seat in the *Legislature*, I may be pardoned should I suggest the propriety of your bringing the *matter forward* for the consideration of the House of Assembly. It is now pretty well known that the Rev. George Sutherland, a member of the Board of Education, has been for some time hawking about the town and country a book which he calls a geography and history of this Island. If the book was well written and contained useful matter, I should think from the size of it that it might be worth sixpence or ninepence, but the Rev. gentleman imposes it on the public for three shillings! I use the word impose, for *when Mr. S. goes into a school, he* praises up his book, and descants on the necessity of being well acquainted with the history of the Island. The teacher, to get clear of the importunities of the Rev. pedlar, buys a copy of the work. Mr. S. then asks the teacher to take three or four or more copies to sell for him. The latter remonstrates that the book is too dear, and that he has no money. Mr. S. soon solves the latter difficulty by proposing to take an order on the teacher's salary for the amount of the books! I have been told that Mr. Arbuckle has given a helping hand in this wretched peddling business; for I have been *informed* that he went to the Normal School and told the young men there that at the Board of Education they would be examined on the contents of Mr. S.'s book, and that to have any chance of passing they should buy a copy of the said book. The way being thus prepared, the Rev. gentleman came to the school with an armful of his chattels, and the candidates for the teachership were literally shamed and frightened into buying them. If there is anything in the world ignoble this is certainly approaching it.

It is not long since I saw a list of the licensed pedlars, and I don't remember to have seen the name of the Rev. Mr. Sutherland among the rest. I may be mistaken. I would not wish to do the Rev. gentleman the injustice to say positively that he has adopted the occupation of a pedlar without the license required by law. If the Rev. gentleman has no license like other pedlars, will you be kind enough to inform us country people why he is privileged to hawk books about without a license? Is it because he is a clergyman, or because he is a member of the Board of Education, or because he was of inestimable value to the *Tories at the last election?* If the privilege to hawk books about the country without a license is the only boon which Mr. Sutherland has received from the Government for fighting their battles, he has been treated by them in a most ungrateful manner. It is, indeed, very discreditable to the Government thus to treat a gentleman of Mr. Sutherland's inestimable and rare abilities as a politician at election times. I feel indignant at *the thought that a Rev. gentleman*, who has displayed such persevering energy and indomitable zeal for the governing party, should not only not receive a handsome pension for his invaluable services, but should be so totally neglected as to be compelled, in order to keep soul and body together, to adopt the life of a pedlar—a mode of life which some imagine is not the best calculated to increase that respect which is due to the clerical character. I think there is not a member in the Legislature who would make the least objection to *giving the Rev. gentleman a handsome grant* for charity's sake rather than see him peddling about the country. I deeply sympathise with him for the unfeeling manner in which he has been treated by those who should be his warmest friends.

Yours respectfully,
A COUNTRY TEACHER.

CANADA.

At the opening of the Canadian Parliament last week, the Legislative Council for the first time exercised its right of electing its speaker, or as we say in this Province, its president. The Council did honour to itself by choosing as its presiding officer, the Hon. Sir Allan MacNab, Baronet, who was proposed by Sir E. P. Tache, seconded by Mr. Malcolm Cameron.

The Lower House selected as its speaker, Joseph Edward Turcotte, Esq., member for Three Rivers.

The opposition availed themselves of the election of a speaker to make it a party question, and thus test the relative strength of parties in the Assembly. The vote for the Government Candidate was 66, and for the opposition 53, thus showing a majority for the Government of 13, in addition to three or four of its *supporters* who had not arrived at Quebec. It is stated also, that the members for Upper Canada are divided exactly equal between the Government and the opposition, the Government majority being Lower Canadian members.

Sir John Beverley Robinson, Bart, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, has retired from the Court of Queen's Bench, and Mr. Justice McLean has been promoted to the Chief Justiceship. Mr. Justice Hagarty has been promoted from the Common Pleas to the vacant Judgeship on the Queen's Bench and the late Solicitor General, Mr. Morrison, is Justice Hagarty's successor in the Common Pleas.

The Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet, Commissioner of Crown Lands, has accepted the Chacellorship of the Court of Chancery of Upper Canada, vacant by the retirement of Chancellor Blake.

It is believed that Mr. Merwood, at present Receiver General of Canada, will succeed Mr. Vankoughnet in the Crown Land Department.

CANADIAN SHIPPING IN FRANCE.

The Baron Builleau, *Consul General of France* in Canada, has addressed a letter to the Toronto *Globe*, in which he states that the *Globe* was in error in stating that Canadian built vessls were to be admitted to registry in France, on terms less favourable than to those built in the United Kingdom. The Baron says that the terms are identical with those which are required of vessels constructed in the United Kingdom, or in Belgium, the only countries which at present possess, with Canada, the advantage of being able to sell their ships in the French Empire.

The Consul General avails himself of the opportunity to state, that the decree of the 5th of Feb. only completes a series of custom modifications which have been accomplished in France during the last three years, all tending to relieve from duties the products of Canada, which are now admitted into all the ports of the Empire, either free, or at nominal rates.

It appears that these valuable concessions extend only to Canada, and not to the other North American Colonies, and that these privileges are granted because Canada by its tariff has wisely provided for the *admission of the light wines of* France, and some other of its products, at low rates of duty.

The Baron Boilleau visited this province last summer, with a view, as is said, of inducing the Government of New Brunswick to enter into a similar arrangement with France, as had been effected in Canada, but had no success.

It will be a proper subject for enquiry in the House, and we trust the Executive will be called upon to state, if any, and what, negociations or correspondence took place with the Baron on this very important subject.

So far from following the discreet course of Canada, which has already set the principal shipyards of Quebec in active motion, our Provincial Secretary proposes duties on French wines which will amount to an almost total prohibition. "Let our Shipbuilders look to it!"—*Col. Empire.*

A Union man in Hardin Valley, Tennessee, writes to his son that the rebels recently hung three Unionists in Knoxville and two in Greenville; that scores of others were sent South to work during the war, and a large number were in jail and ironed.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, April 21st, 1862.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

THE Speech with which His Excellency the Lieut. Governor closed the late Session has one good quality—it is very short. Feeling that he had nothing to say in praise of the proceedings of the Legislature, he has said that nothing in the fewest possible words. But notwithstanding its general brevity, there are two short passages in the Speech that cannot fail to attract some attention. The first has reference to the Land Commission; the second alludes to the Legislative Council Bill.

1. His Excellency says:—

"A copy of the Report of the Land *Commission* has been forwarded to me by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and has been laid before you."

The Legislature did not *certainly* require the information that His Excellency had received the noted document, which had been laying on the tables of both Houses for nearly two months. But the reader will observe that His Excellency was cautious in saying that it was only "a copy" of the thing he had received—not the original—not the real Simon Pure. Now, if "a copy" of one particular thing is as good as the original of that thing—the copy of any thing else ought to be equally good; as, for example, the copy of a Promissory Note, a Bank Bill, a Bond, Mortgage, Deed or Lease. His Excellency knows right well, or ought to know, from the tenor of the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch of the 7th February, in which His Grace uses the phrase "a copy" in reference to the printed paper which was forwarded to Mr. Dundas, that that printed paper was never intended to be made the basis of legislation in this Island; and the Duke will most likely use such language towards His Excellency as will enable him to to understand that fact, as soon as he will have an opportunity of examining the two worthless Bills that were passed during the late Session in reference to the so-called Award.

2. Alluding to the Elective Council Bill, His Excellency says:—

"I trust that the Act, to which I have just given my assent, may be the means of establishing a popular and effective Upper Chamber."

Now, the Government have been three years engaged in patching up a good working majority for themselves in the "Upper Chamber," and yet they inform the country, through the lips of the Lieut. Governor, that it is neither "effective", nor "popular." Surely, "*The* M'Nab," or "The other M'Nab" could not have very carefully revised this portion of the Speech. It conveys a poor compliment to Mr. Palmer, who sacrificed his position in the Lower House to make things comfortable for the Administration in the Upper Chamber, and to secure popularity and efficiency there. Besides, how mortifying it must have been to the Simpsons, the Haszards, the Gardiners and the McLarens, to be told to their very beards, that, notwithstanding the impression of *their* new and *superior* blood, the Council was still non-effective and unpopular! Of course, all those gentlemen will wrap themselves up in their offended dignity, and never make their appearance in public life again. We are morally certain that under the elective system the people will not solicit their services. Although opposed to the principle of the Elective Council Bill, we were not displeased to see the gentlemen whose names we have mentioned committing political suicide so patiently as they did. That very measure—the Elective Council Bill—is destined, we believe, to be a most painful thorn in the side of the Tory Government. But on this point we shall enlarge on a future occasion.

THE PROPOSED TRADE WITH FRANCE.

THE 'Islander' animadverts, with its accustomed acrimony and misrepresentation, on the proposal made by the Hon. Mr. Coles in the House of Assembly to give the French the same privileges as are enjoyed by the Americans, with respect to a free fishery on our coasts, and a reciprocal free trade in agricultural products, in exchange for the privilege of having our Island built ships admitted to French registry. The Government organ states that Mr. Coles proposed to legislate away rights which do not belong to him or the Colony—that if a right of fishery were given to the French it would involve a violation of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, and that "very serious injury" to our own fisheries "would be the result of granting to the French the liberty" proposed by Mr. Coles.

The 'Islander' says:—

"This right, which Mr. Coles proposed to offer to the French, is one over which we have no control whatever. The Reciprocity treaty with the United States was signed while Mr. Coles was in power with his Liberal majority; but neither Mr. Coles nor his friends were parties to it. It was a treaty between the United States of America and Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain; and the rights of fishery, granted to American subjects, were imperial rights, conferred by the exercise of the Sovereign power which is vested in the Crown. They were rights over which the Legislative Assemblies of this Island had no control."

The editor of the 'Islander' has borrowed this novel view of the question from one or two members of the House of Assembly, who propounded it when the matter was discussed there, to the surprise and amusement of nearly the whole House. The Reciprocity treaty with the United States contains no article or provision to the effect that the Colonies shall be debarred from an interchange of commercial relations with other foreign countries—whether with regard to fishery rights or anything else—on principles similar to those which apply to the neighbouring Republic. A treaty containing a provision to the contrary would not be entertained for one hour by either of the contracting parties. We might as well suppose that when the U. States entered into reciprocal free trade with the British American Provinces, the Washington Government denuded itself of the power to conclude free trade treaties with other countries; and *vice versa* with regard to the Provinces. If the Legislative Assembly of this Island have no control over our fisheries, will the 'Islander' inform us what local interests are subject to our control? Is the Government domain, commonly called the Crown Lands, subject to legislative control in this Island? What was meant by the Civil List Bill passed in 1851, when all the Imperial interests in the Island were freely yielded to the control of the local Legislature? What was meant by our action in 1854, when the Legislature of this Island were desired by the Imperial Government to pass a Bill to give effect to the Reciprocity treaty, so far as this Colony was concerned? It is quite true that "Mr. Coles was in power with his Liberal majority" at that time; if they had "no control whatever" in the disposal of our fisheries, why were they asked to legislate upon the subject? That legislation shews conclusively that "Mr. Coles" and "his friends were parties" to the treaty to the fullest extent.

We apprehend no injury to the interests of our fishermen from the daily and hourly visits of French fishing smacks. We lost nothing by the Americans, but have had hundreds of thousands of dollars spent amongst us; and yet we never received a boon from the Americans so valuable as that which we are seeking from the French—a registry for our ships, in addition to a new and extensive market for our agricultural products. We should be glad to see every harbour belonging to the Colony whitened with the canvas of French vessels;—a new impulse would be given to every branch of trade;—fishing establishments would spring up in every direction; lands would increase in value, and the forest would rapidly recede before the axe of the stalwart son of toil, who might then safely count upon a handsome return for his labour and industry, at his own door, without seeking for it in a distant land;—farmers would grow rich by the rapid sale of their surplus produce—their potatoes, grain, butter, eggs, pork, bacon, which would be eagerly bought up to feed the crews of the French fishing vessels;—Island shipyards, vastly increased in number, and strengthened by great material resources, would exchange for the solitude of the forest the glad music of the hammer, the maul, and the adze, to supply the demands of French commerce in the far-off sunny waters of La Belle France. And all these golden advantages might be gained for our own people, without leaving them one fish the less to eat or sell; or without interfering, in the *slightest degree*, with their privileges as British subjects. But the blight of party-spirit, selfishness, and religious bigotry, must, forsooth, be brought to darken this bright picture, as it does whenever a beam of hope sheds its cheering light over the prospects of this unhappy Island. Mr. Coles proposed the liberal concessions to the French,—the proposal from *him* was sufficient to condemn them in the eyes of the Tory party;—the selfish Tories are incapable of entertaining views so broad and generous—therefore they must be condemned. But there was another objection, which they had not the manliness openly to urge, but which, we feel assured, swayed their minds more than anything else:—the French are Catholics; it would not be safe, in the eyes of the Bigots, to permit the French to amalgamate with our own people—to settle here, buy land, marry, rear up families, and augment the power of the Catholic Church. If, however, we had good "German Protestants" to deal with, in the matter of ships, fisheries, and general commerce, the Protestant Leader of the Opposition would have had the wind taken out of *his* sails by some honorable member on the Government side of the House.

WHEN the School Visitor's Report for 1861 was laid before the House of Assembly, only one day before the prorogation, a statement was made by the Hon. Mr. Coles, which produced a very strong feeling of surprise and indignation amongst members unconnected with the Government. He stated that he had been informed, on undeniable authority, that the Government had paid to the Rev. George Sutherland—on the recommendation of the Board of Education, of which the Rev. George is a member—the sum of seventy pounds out of the public money, receiving in exchange a certain number of copies of the trashy little book which Mr. Sutherland lately published, under the title of "a Manual of the Geography and Natural and Civil History of Prince Edward Island." These books, we are informed, were sent to the Depository, to be sold, from time to time, with the authorized school books, and the Board had recommended their introduction into the public schools, as a class book in Geography and History. But even supposing the thing to be a desirable class book—which we can easily show it is not—the intention of the Government—*if they had any intention to serve the interests of the public in this matter*—has been entirely frustrated by Mr. Sutherland himself, for he has forestalled the Government sale of his worthless "Manual" by privately forcing it into nearly all the public schools in the Island. We have received several accounts—all agreeing one with another—of the manner in which Mr. Sutherland has hawked this book through the Colony. He goes himself to a public school, with an armful of the trash—he is known to be a member of the Board of Education—he tells the simple minded master that the thing is recommended by "the Board,"—that all the scholars who are so far advanced as to be able to read Geography and History are expected to have a copy—and that persons who are candidates for the office of Teacher are required to understand its contents thoroughly, otherwise they will have no chance of passing the Board. The schoolmaster may say, and has said, in many instances, that his pupils are too poor to give three shillings for each copy of the "Manual," or that they have not the money at present. Mr. Sutherland is ready with an answer: "Never mind; I will give you credit to the extent of one dozen copies, which will amount to thirty six shillings—get the money when you can out of your scholars—I will allow you six shillings for your trouble; and I will take a draft on your Treasury Warrant for thirty shillings." The poor schoolmaster has no chance of escape. *There* is a member of "the Board" forcing upon him a book which he says the whole "Board" requires to be used in the public schools—his miserable allowance is taxed to the amount of thirty shillings, or perhaps twice thirty, if he has a very large school—and he must do his best to wring this sum in very small change from the pockets of the poor parents, whose children are compelled to waste their time in studying a book, which, if they can recollect anything of it in after years, can only serve to give them a poor and contemptible opinion of their Island home. What Mr. Sutherland cannot do himself in the way of peddling his book he entrusts to the agency of others; and we have not been surprised to hear that the School Visitor has been doing an extensive business in this line. We have been told that Mr. Arbuckle spends far more time in imposing Mr. Sutherland's book upon the poor schoolmasters than he does in examining the public schools, for which he is so well paid; and this accounts for the fact, that instead of examining all the schools in the Island twice a year, as the law requires, he does not examine any thing like the whole of them even once a year; and he withholds his report from the Legislature until nearly the very last day of the Session, when half the members have gone home—when there is no time to examine his proceedings, and comment on the performance of his duties.

As regards the seventy pounds given to Mr. Sutherland, it is a shameful misappropriation of the public money. If any number of copies of his book were worth that sum, he should not have been allowed to forestall the sale of them in the way he has done; but we believe that the whole edition, if it were numerons enough to freight a ship, is not worth seventy pence, unless as waste paper for lighting fires, &c., &c. The thing is a blot on the honoured names of History and Geography, and a positive disgrace to the Island. If the Rev. gentleman was so badly in want of seventy pounds, we might be content to give him even that large sum out of the Charity Fund, in the hope that he would spend a portion of it amongst his indigent fellow creatures; but to give it to him as a reward of literary merit, we look upon it as an insult to the taste, intelligence, and common sense of the community. Mr. Sutherland has been, we believe, in a small way, serviceable to the party in power, as a political agitator. We may assume that the seventy pounds were given to him as a compensation for his services in that capacity; and whenever we see or hear him shouting, lecturing, preaching, or scribbling in praise of the existing Government, we shall be reminded of the seventy pounds sop; and we will understand that to be the price of his services towards ANY Government.

WE are indebted to D. Laird, Esqr., Editor of the 'Protestant,' for a copy of the "Abstract of the Proceedings before the Land Commissioners' Court." Although the Commission has ended, as we expected, without any practical and beneficial result to the country, the "Abstract" may be a very useful book for reference, as detailing the history, in a great measure, of the land tenures in this Island—showing the exactions and usurpations of the Proprietary body; and containing the opinions of the proprietors and the delegates from the tenantry as regards the value of land in this Colony. The Report of the Royal Commission is given as an Appendix to the book, and the whole volume consists of 364 pages.