vour to smother Escheat but, who can deny, that we are not entitled to a Court of that nature? the opponents of this, who act in opposition to the Constitution, coupled with the Proprietors. I am, said the hon member, tired of Escheat, but to say that I will give it up, till something approaching to it, as an equivalent, is consented to, I never will; though hon. members call us by names we do not merit, yet for one I will not swerve. from what I consider the right course; we are forsooth to be designated bad members of society, and propagators of injury to the oppressed people; some hon. members complain, that they cannot understand the resolution, that it is contrary to the Constitution, &c. &c But in his (Mr Macintosh's) opinion, until the constitution is more extended to us, in this particular, we have just cause of complaint; and, the longer justice is withheld, the more strenuous we ought to be in demanding its administration; (*hear, hear*, from Mr. Douse). Mr. Macintosh continued. a great deal of personality is launched against those who advocate the rights of the tenantry, but taking into consideration the quarter from which it emanates, it is nothing very surprising; I cannot help hearing it, but farther than this it makes no impression; the path hitherto trod shall I continue to tread, till a remedy is devised for the grievances of the Colony, or I should consider myself a bad subject.

Mr. Douse said, that having so often declared his sentiments heretofore in this House, he had but little to add, therefore would not long detain the House. The resolution now submitted, though fresh clothed, cannot be disguised; it is to all intents and purposes Escheat, which has over and over again been tried, invariably condemned, and in the most positive terms discountenanced by the Home Government. The hon. member well knows, in short, admits, that his motion will not be carried. But, Sir, it may not suit that hon. member's feelings to let the matter rest; if he did, there would be an end to his career, and he might at once become politically dead. The hon. member had taken credit to himself, as being the originator of a plan now entertained in some parts of the Island, relative to purchasing of Lands from the proprietors; yet would he, Mr. Douse, venture to state, that it originated with himself, and was mooted by him in this House years since, when he was but a young member; and he was still of opinion, if fair offers were made, and the means found for its accomplishment, that the prorietors would willingly accept them. Thus, said the hon. member, I am still favourably disposed to view it in a far different light to any of those mystified schemes so everlastingly introduced by the hon. member, and his company of agitators. (*Name, name, name!* from Mr. Rae). I feel no delicacy to name them, said the hon. member; they are no less personages than the hon. member and his friends. The House had heard many Despatches read from Colonial Secretaries, and much said about foreign Protestants, the non-settlement of the land, and its consequent liability to forfeiture. Resolutions had also been read from the Journals of the House, to suit a particular purpose; but the hon. member had never quoted his own dispatch, which he, Mr. Douse, now held in his hand (addressed to Mr. John Le Lacheur, dated Sept. 14th, 1837) which was as follows:—"A compromise with the Landlords is offered by the "Governor, viz: A release from all back rents, a long lease, a "deduction of half the rent, and the half of the present rent to "be taken in produce. This offer being made, they cannot re-"tract. We have therefore gained a victory worth about £267,000 "to the Colony, which will appear by the following state-"ment:—Back rent, one Township with another, may be reckon-"ed at £1000 each, £67,000; the rent in 1833 was from 15 to "£16,000, *and up to this time*, cannot be short of £20,000; to be "reduced one half, and that half to be taken in produce, will be "equal to £12,000, out of £20,000; this £12,000 being reckoned "as interest, at six per cent. gives a capital of £200,000. There "fore, there is a victory, clearing £267,000, gained to the inhabi-"tants, *and cannot be lost* or retaken by the enemy."

Does this, resumed the hon. member, look like a scarcity of population? he thought not. He would not impute ignorance to the writer, but would modify the term to an error of judgment. The hon Speaker had so ably argued the matter now before the House, that but little was left to be said by other hon. Members, and therefore he (Mr. Douse) would not take up the time of the House unnecessarily; yet he trusted its good sense would reject the original motion which, in addition to the admission of the hon. member, is also declared by another hon. Member, Mr. Rae, that no expectation is felt by him of any other result. The motive then is very clearly demonstrated, to be solely to keep up agitation; but it is useless, condemnation is gone forth: and very soon did he. Mr. Douse, hope to see the last dying speech and confession of Escheat; and then the great Mr. Cooper—the notorious Mr. Cooper's politics, will be at a very large discount in Prince Edward Island. Nothing, said the hon. member, can be more true than the remark of the hon. Speaker, relative to the idleness and want of knowledge in farming operations evinced by many who are loudest in their complaints. Look at Crapaud and its neighbourhood; see the good effect of industry and Yorkshire farming; compare these with those who spend their time in dissipation, who, with their short pipes, attend political meetings, and *smoke* away their prosperity in a useless waste of time; look at this and on that, said the hon. member, many hundreds of families have been ruined by the advice of those who agitate Escheat, and thus he sincerely hoped, never again to see another resolution, (that had for its object Escheat), brought under the notice of this House.

Mr. Montgomery said, there was no denying that the hon. member who had just resumed his seat, was unsparing in his attack on the hon. member, Mr. Cooper; yet it is not all true; for even if he was dead and buried, still would the question of Escheat again and again be agitated, ("till our Assembly is swept from us," said the hon. Mr. Palmer). Mr. Montgomery resumed: That something must be done, Sir, I am fully persuaded; yet I like not either the Resolution or the amendment. Hon. members who say Escheat is visionary, and he knew not what beside, only pick out those despatches, &c. that suit their purpose, but lose sight of those that do not. The hon. member, Mr. Coles, and the hon. the Speaker, both contend that some remedy must be devised, and that no further delay must take place; but how is this to be accomplished? every exertion by us is frustrated. And another great obstacle presents itself, in the expenditure of the country exceeding the income. Let it be settled by giving the land free of rent, (hear). I do not say, or mean, that they should have it for nothing, but let justice be done, let the upset price of Crown Lands be assimilated to other Colonies. Why, said the hon. member, should we be deprived of fair play? Is it not well known who are the causes of this high rate? Yes, Sir, it is known to be caused by the overpowering influence of the proprietors. As there was no prospect that the motion would be carried, he must oppose it. He doubted as to the despatches containing the real sentiments of Her Majesty's Government; and thought, if some hon. members were tenants themselves, they would be more merciful in speaking of others.

Mr. Dalziel could not refrain from expressing his former opinions; that justice to this Colony was most unreasonably delayed, no one could deny. Had this been administered, how far different would now be the prospects and situation of the Colony. Had the lands been Escheated, he, Mr. Dalziel, verily believed, the present distress would not exist. The plan of purchasing the lands of the proprietors, by the settlers, should have his support, was it not for the great obstacle that presents itself; that is, how can they pay for it? It is not only the leaseholders that cannot pay their rent, who are in distress, but he, Mr. Dalziel, knew freeholders who, of course, had none to pay, that now felt the pinching influence of the times. I am, said the hon. member, as anxious as any hon. member can possibly be, to see peace: but how can this desirable object be expected to prevail, while the hard work of the tenantry remains unrequited, accompanied with the certainty, that the agents will exact the rent, though their whole may be swept away for that purpose? It is very evident to every discerning mind, that nothing can be expected from our applications to the Home Government. A late despatch is more and more conclusive. Her Majesty even refused to mediate between the oppressed tenantry and the proprietors. What then can be done, is a question that demands our most serious and careful deliberation. He did not approve of either the motion or the amendment.

The hon. Mr. Palmer admitted the scheme of purchasing would be far preferable to either the one or the other, if it were practicable; but we must not expect to drag the proprietors into it without proposing fair conditions. Similar attempts ought to convince the most prejudiced mind that it is unattainable in any other way. The Imperial Government have stated they have no funds; and how are the tenants to do it, many of whom do not see a shilling from one end of the year to the other? If it could possibly be done, no one would be more strenuous to carry out the details than would be he who was now addressing the House. Nor do I, said he (Mr. P.), require to be told that the prosperity of the agricultural interest is a desirable end to be obtained. Who can doubt the sincerity of my motives, while its beneficial influence would, in some degree, fall on myself? Yet are we only holding out false hopes, and deceiving ourselves, while this large mountain intervenes. I am in very little doubt that what the hon. member (Mr. Dalziel) stated, that the distress now existing is conjointly felt both by the leaseholder and freeholder is a fact; and if any possible remedy was introduced, none should be found more unflinching in the endeavour to see it carried out than he (Mr. Palmer) would be. The hon. member for Princetown (Mr. Montgomery) seems doubtful as to the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, as contained in the correspondence between that and this Government, at the present time. Yet what existing cause can be adduced to sustain the opinion that they are not as equally pure now as were those in the time of Lord John Russell? Supposing, for the sake of elucidating the matter, that we gravely consider a Court of Escheat as now existing. Enquiry must take place. Is there any Township that would not endeavour to keep aloof from it? Or is there one that would not succeed, if the terms were strictly followed; it would be found they had been as far as practicable complied with? No benefit whatever would those complaining derive from its workings. Thousands of them would get no relief. Is it not a matter of regret that an end is not put to this everlasting and useless agitation? Let its merits and demerits be fairly tried this day; let those who have so long been deceived, be undeceived; let us give an impulse to trade; let this be the verdict, then will its benefits be felt from one end of the Island to the other, and the people will then see that we are in reality their true representatives, and at length endeavouring to do some real and lasting benefit for them. I trust that twenty days will not expire before some measure of importance of this nature will be brought forward. Of what earthly use is it in the hon. member for King's County following his old course, when every attempt still meets with less favourable views here, and also by Her Majesty's Government? The natural combination of the proprietors will thwart every attempt to interfere with their rights. It is said by some hon. members that agitation will still continue. Yes, Sir, I am fearful it will, until we lose our House, and, of course, with it, the privilege we are now exercising; and, Sir, I am fearful the day is not far off. (I hope not, said Mr. Cooper.) What is this little spot—this mere speck? Will not the government thus reason with themselves. Why should we be pestered with such a set of paltry fellows? It is highly probable that this may happen to us. Look at what took place in Newfoundland, and if we thus go on, three years may not elapse ere we become in a similar situation. (I hope it will not! I hope it will not! again ejaculated Mr. Cooper.) I hope, continued the hon. member, that the substance of the hon. member's intention will go forth to the public. The proprietors would not care about it, or that of annexation to Nova Scotia. The rights of property form a prominent portion of the constitution, and in either case, will be protected. Let hon. members well weigh the consequences that may happen to us, if we do not this night, by our votes, declare our abhorrence of such flimsy stuff as we are now wasting our time upon; and which ought to be beneficially employed in legislating for the good of the whole Colony.

(*To be continued.*)

Saturday, February 24.

Mr. Rae, from the Committee appointed to search the Journals of the Legislative Council, on the subject of Fees on Mandamuses, reported, that they had found the following entries:

(Copy—No. 70.)

Government House, P. E. Island,
Feb. 11, 1843.

My Lord;

I have the honor to lay before your Lordship two letters respectively addressed to me by Mr. Hensley and Mr. Irving, representing that they feel the payment of the fee charged upon the Warrants appointing them to Seats in the Legislative Council to be a hardship, under the present circumstances of this Colony.

This subject has, I am aware, already been before Her Majesty's Government, in the case of Mr. Green, who was appointed in 1839, but who, upon declining payment of the fee, did not take his seat. Upon another occasion, a seat was declined by Mr. Macgowan, now Sheriff of King's County, also on account of that payment being necessary. Of the twelve members forming the Legislative Council, seven of them live at distances varying from five to forty miles from Charlottetown. None of these Gentlemen have residences in the town, nor are they paid for attendance during the Session, as the Members of the Assembly are. It is necessary to select Gentlemen from different parts of the Island for this Council, or a dissatisfaction would be created in accepting seats. I cannot imagine them to be actuated by any feeling beyond serving the Colony.

It is very important here so to construct the Legislative Council, that it shall operate to neutralize, or, at least, to modify, the wild and destructive spirit that of late years has so much prevailed in another direction of the Legislature of this Island, and at the same time to compose that Council of men who, while they are firm in the prosecution of some measures, will not captiously overrule those emanating from a Body from whose policy, upon some great questions, they dissent.

I cannot conceal from your Lordship that the Executive is subjected to much inconvenience, in consequence of this charge upon Warrants, appointing Gentlemen to the Legislative Council, there being a very limited number in the Island qualified by their attainments, and still fewer of those who are who can afford with ease to pay the charge. It therefore has occurred that the Colony has been deprived of the services of some very intelligent men; that I have to fear will be the result in the cases of Mr. Hensley and Mr. Irving. If the fee cannot be remitted, both, I apprehend, will resign, and the Council will lose two decidedly superior members, whose vacancies I shall be at a loss to fill.

I have felt it my duty to detail these circumstances, for your Lordship's information, to which I may also add, that where the gentleman who is appointed to the Legislative Council is engaged in business, and not residing in Charlottetown, he actually suffers a loss from the necessity of employing some person to superintend during his absence.

I have troubled your Lordship at some length upon this subject, because it appears to threaten the necessity of selecting for the Legislative Council men who would be too intimately connected with those forming another branch of the Government, and thus destroy the wholesome balance of power contemplated by the Constitution of the two Houses.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. V. HUNTLEY,
Lt. Governor.

The Right Honorable,
Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(Copy—No. 67.)

Downing Street, 20th March, 1843.

Sir;

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, of the 11th of February, enclosing copies of two letters which have been addressed to you by Mr. Hensley and Mr. Irving, expressing their objections to the payment of the fee required upon their Warrants of appointment to the Legislative Council.

You will inform those Gentlemen that I do not think that there is sufficient ground for remitting, in their favour, the customary fees on appointments to the Council.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STANLEY.

Lieut. Governor
Sir H. V. Huntley,
&c. &c. &c.

Monday, February 26.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having attended in the Council Chamber, commanded the immediate attendance of the House of Assembly: and the House having attended accordingly, His Excellency was pleased, in Her Majesty's name, to give his asssent to the Act to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned, and to consolidate and amend the Laws for the relief of Insolvent Debtors.

Mr. Speaker, by command of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, laid before the House two Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of Differential Duties, imposed by the Revenue Acts of this Island.—Laid on the Table.

Read a third time and passed, the Bill for the regulation of the Public Wharf in Georgetown.

Resolved, That a Committee of five Members be appointed, to report generally on the subject of the Crown Lands in this Colony.

Ordered. That Mr. Thornton, Mr. Rae, Mr. D. Maclean, Mr. Coles and Mr. Longworth do compose the said Committee.

Resolved, That a Message be sent to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, requesting that he will be pleased to lay before this House the Returns made by Mr. Ball, Surveyor, relative to the exploring of Townships Nos. 30, 65, 67, and a small part of Lot 32, for laying off a new line of Road under the Road Compensation Act, from the West side of York River Bridge towards Tryon and Bedeque.

Ordered, That Mr. Douse and the Hon. J. S. Macdonald do compose the said Committee.

Tuesday, February 27.

Mr. Rae read, in his place, a Petition of divers Inhabitants of Townships 14, 15, and places adjacent, praying for a grant, in aid of individual subscription, towards the erection and construction of a Bridge and Wharf on Township 15.

Ordered, That under the peculiar circumstances of the case, the said Petition be received and read.

And the said Petition was received and read accordingly.

Mr. Rae moved that the said Petition be referred to the Committee of Supply.

The Hon. J. S. Macdonnld moved, in amendment to the motion, that the said Petition do lie on the Table.

The House divided on the motion of amendment:

Yeas—Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Messrs. Thornton, Montgomery, Longworth, Dalziel, A. Maclean, Wightman, Hudson, Beairsto, Macgregor, Aitken.

Nays—Messrs. Rae, Cooper, D. Maclean, Dingwell, Fraser.

So it was carried in the affirmative—and ordered accordingly.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to join a Committee of the Legislative Council, to prepare an Address to Her Majesty, on the subject of the Act to authorize the issue, *de novo*, of Writs under the Road Compensation Acts, in certain cases, and to which the Royal Assent has been withheld.

Ordered, That Mr. Rae, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. A. Maclean, Mr. D. Maclean and the Hon. Mr. Palmer do compose the said Committee.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Palmer have leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Statute Labour Act, by reducing certain of the Rates, as far as relates to Charlottetown and Royalty.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time.—Second reading to-morrow.

The Order of the Day for the second reading of the Bill for the naturalization of John Broderus Edinger Tybring, being read;

Mr. Fraser acquainted the House, that the Rules of this House with reference to Private Bills had been complied with in this instance.

And then the said Bill was read a second time, committed, and reported, without any amendment.

Resolved, That no new matter, on which a Bill can be founded, be introduced into this House after Wednesday, the 6th March next.

The Hon. Mr. Palmer, by command of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, laid before the House the Estimates for the service of the current year.

Mr. Thornton, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, with the Address, praying that His Excellency would authorize the Commissioners of Roads to enter into the several contracts for Wharves and Bridges before the breaking up of the Winter, reported to the House that their Address had been presented to His Excellency, and that he was pleased to say, he would comply with the desire of the House.

Wednesday, February 28.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to search the Journals of the Legislative Council, to ascertain what proceedings have been had on the Bill to authorize and regulate the gathering of Seaweed on the Shores of this Island.

Ordered, That Mr. Beairsto and Mr. Cooper do compose the said Committee; who, returning, reported, that they had found the following entry:—

Legislative Council Chamber,
Tuesday, 27th February, 1844.

Present:

The Hon. Mr. *Attorney General*, President;
The Hon. Mr. *Brecken*, The Hon Mr. *Young*,
Mr. *Macdonald*, Mr. *Irving*,
Mr. *Dalrymple*, Mr. *Worthy*,
Mr. *Macnutt*, Mr. *Anderson*,
Mr. *Holl*, Mr. *Rice*.

The Order of the Day, for the second reading of the Bill intituled *An Act to authorize and regulate the gathering of Seaweed on the Shores of this Island*, being read;

On motion, Ordered, That it be discharged, and that the said Bill be read a second time this day Six Months.

Dissentient:
Mr. *Young*.

The Bill to alter the Act relating to Statute Labour, was, according to order, read a second time, committed, and reported without amendment—to be engrossed.

Ordered, That the Rule of this House with reference to the presentation of Petitions for Private Bills, be suspended, and thereupon—

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Palmer have leave to present a Petition of the Hon. W. W. Irving, for and on behalf of George Hammond Whalley, of the Temple, in the City of London, Esquire; Edward Irving, of Fenchurch Buildings, in the said City of London, Esquire; and Richard Rennie, Villiers Street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire. and others, and the said Petition was received and read; setting forth—That Petitioners, in conjunction with other persons resident in Great Britain, have entered into a Co-partnership, with a capital of One hundred thousand Pounds sterling, for the purpose of carrying on the Fisheries on the coasts of this Island: That Petitioners humbly conceive that the establishment of a Fishing Company in this Island will be highly beneficial to the Inhabitants thereof—and more especially to the agricultural part of the community, inasmuch as it will afford them a ready-money market for their farm produce, which they cannot at present command: That Petitioners cannot carry into effect such intended establishment in this Island, unless an Act be passed, to enable them to sue and be sued in the name or names of one or more of the local Agents or directors of the said Company, and to limit their responsibility to the amount of their respective shares: That Petitioners, knowing the unwillingness of capitalists to invest in an undertaking of this description without an act to limit their responsibility, trust that the House of Assembly will be found willing to grant the boon required: That Petitioners, on obtaining an Act of Incorporation, purpose petitioning the Imperial Parliament for a Royal Charter, similar to that granted to the Fishing Company of Gaspe, in Lower Canada: and praying the House to take the premises into their consideration, and to pass an Act for the purposes aforesaid.—Laid on the Table.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Palmer have leave to introduce a Bill to incorporate George Hammond Whalley, of the Temple, in the City of London, Esquire; Edward Irving, of Fenchurch Buildings, in the said City of London, Esquire; Richard Rennie, Villiers Street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, and others, for carrying on the Fishery in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Northumberland Sound, and on the coasts and other places adjacent to Prince Edward Island.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House; and the same was received and read for the first time.—Referred to the Private Bill Committee, to examine the same and report thereon.

Read a third time and passed, the Bill to consolidate, amend and continue the Acts relating to Merchant Seamen.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council, by Mr. Desbrisay:

Mr. Speaker,

The Legislative Council have passed the following Bills, to which they desire the concurrence of the House of Assembly, viz:

An Act further to continue an Act made and passed in the Fourth year of Her present Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act to continue and amend an Act made and passed in the Seventh year of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled 'An Act to establish an additional Term of the Supreme Court, and to extend the Hilary and Trinity Terms for Queen's County."

An Act to authorize Justices of the Peace to appoint Clerks.

And also—

'Council Chamber,
'Tuesday, 27th February, 1844.

'Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to join the Committee of the House of Assembly, to prepare an Address to Her Majesty, on the subject of the Act to authorize the issue, *de novo*, of Writs under the Road Compensation Acts, in certain cases, and to which the Royal Assent has been withheld.

'Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Macnutt, the Hon. Mr. Holl and the Hon. Mr. Young be a Committee, on the part of this House, to prepare the said Address.

'Ordered, That the said Resolution be communicated, by message, to the House of Assembly.'

And then he withdrew.

The above Bills were severally read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Thursday, February 29.

The House went into Committee, on the consideration of the Report of the Special Committee appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts, Mr. Longworth in the Chair.

After some time spent therein, the Chairman reported progress, and moved for leave to sit again.

Ordered, That the said Committee have leave to sit again on Saturday next.

Mr. D. Macdonald, from the Committee to whom was referred divers Petitions relating to the Herring and Alewives' Fisheries, with leave to report thereon by Bill or otherwise, presented to the House a Bill, as prepared by the Committee; and the same was received and read the first time.

Ordered, That the said Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of a Supply.—Mr. Beairsto in the Chair.

After some time spent therein, the Chairman reported, that the Committee had come to several Resolutions, which he was directed to submit to the House, whenever it shall be pleased to receive the same.

Ordered, That the Report of the Committee be received to-morrow.

Read a third time, and passed, the Bill to naturalize John Broderus Edinger Tybring.

Mr. Yeo, in his place, presented to the House a Report, signed 'Isaac Smith,' and addressed to him, on the state and condition of the Government House and Public Furniture.

Ordered, That the said Report do lie on the Table.

Friday, March 1.

Mr. Beairsto, from the Committee of the whole House, on the consideration of Supply, reported, according to order, several Resolutions of the said Committee; which were agreed to by the House.

The Bill for the protection of the Herring and Alewives' Fisheries, was, according to order, read a second time, committed, reported with an amendment—to be engrossed.

An engrossed Bill from the Council intituled "An Act to authorise Justices of the Peace to appoint Clerks," was, according to order, read a second time, committed. Committee rose without reporting.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the further consideration of the Bill relating to Schools and Education—Mr. Fraser in the chair.

After some time spent therein, Mr. Fraser reported, that the Committe had gone through the Bill and made several amendments thereto; which amendments were agreed to by the House. To be engrossed.

Mr. Thornton, to whom was referred the Petition of Hugh Logan, of Georgetown, Jailer, presented to the House the following Report:—

The Committee appointed to report on the Petition of Hugh Logan, Jailer, in Georgetown, *praying to be* indemnified for the amount of a Debt which the said Jailer was held liable for, in consequence of the escape of James Hawkins, a prisoner in said Jail, report, That Hugh Logan was appointed Jailer of King's County in May, 1839, and on inspecting the Jail-yard fence, the same was found to be in an insecure state, which was reported by him to the Sheriff. The Grand Jury of the County, in March following, presented the state of Jail fence, and also in May, 1841—on which last presentment the Lieut. Governor Sir Charles A. Fitz Roy brought the subject, by Message, to the notice of the House of Assembly, but the House did not make any provision for the repairs of the yard fence: That on the evening of the 5th June last, James Hawkins, a prisoner for debt, made his escape, by pulling up one of the pickets of the fence, and in consequence of such escape, the Jailer has been obliged to pay the sum of £38 10s., Halifax currency.

The Committee, from the evidence produced, are inclined to think that the escape was made previous to the usual hours of locking up the prisoners for the night, and consequently the Jailer is not blameable on the score of over-indulgence or negligence in his duty. The Committee find, that after the escape personal property belonging to the prisoner was attached, and sold under a Statute Execution, and a portion of the proceeds, Nine Pounds, remains in the Sheriff's hands, as belonging to Hugh Logan. There was also some Real Estate attached, the probable value of which is Ten Pounds, which will not be available before 1845; but both these sums will most probably not exceed the costs of suit more than Five Pounds. The Committee have to observe, that this information as to personal and real property, attached by Hugh Logan, is not contained in his Petition: That James Hawkins is now in Jail, having been arrested by Logan for the escape, on his return to the Island last Fall.

The Committee, under all the circumstances, cannot recommend that, at present, the prayer of the Petition be granted.

A motion being made, that the Report of the Committee be agreed to, and adopted by the House;

The House divided—Yeas—Messrs. Coles, Cooper, Rae, Longworth, Yeo, Hudson, Fraser, Macintosh, Macgregor, A. Maclean, D. Macdonald, Dingwell, Beairsto.—13.

Nays—Messrs. Thornton, Aitken, Wightman, Dalziel, Hon. J. S. Macdonald, D. Maclean.—6.

So it was carried in the affirmative.

Saturday, March 2.

Read a third time, and passed, the Bill to alter the Act relating to Statute Labour.

A Petition of the Sheriffs of the different Counties in this Island was presented to the House by Mr. Thornton, and the same was received and read; setting forth—that by the Act, 7 Will. 4, cap. 15, it is made imperative on Sheriffs, selling real estate under execution, to make oath, that Lands conveyed by deeds given by them of such Lands are regularly "appraised" in every respect as by Law directed.—That the only mode of appraisement set forth by law is to be found in the Statute of the 26th Geo. 3, cap 9, by which it is directed that the appraisers shall be appointed, "one by the owner, one by the purchaser, and one by the Sheriff;" That such appraisement cannot be effected in strict accordance with said Statute, as the purchaser cannot be ascertained until fourteen days after appraisement, and praying for an alteration of the law in that respect.—Laid on the Table.

A Petition of divers Merchants, Mechanics, Farmers, and others, was presented to the House by the Hon. Mr. Palmer, setting forth, that in the opinion of some intelligent persons