

cost £25. I had to pay a mason ten shillings a day to rebuild that wall, and if there had been a proper person to inspect the first building of it, it would not have to be reconstructed. The Government House also has cost a great deal of money, and it is far from complete yet, and will cost more before it is properly habitable. In fact, if a proper system of superintendence of the public works was established, the saving in the end would be immense.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN.—Mr. Chairman, a Bill of that nature will not only be a wise enactment, but will confer a positive benefit upon the whole Island. There has been for years back an increasing necessity for a radical change in this department of our civil administration, and to my mind the time has not only arrived for the execution of some such reform, but a change of this nature is forced upon us by every imperative consideration which the public welfare demands from us as representatives of the people. Other considerations should also impel us to such a step. There are numerous petitions coming in to us for roads, bridges and wharfs, which demand a rigid scrutiny as to the justness of their several applications, and hundreds of pounds are appropriated to meet their demands. If, then, we had a Board of Works to conduct such a scrutiny, with a competent person at its head to oversee the performance of those works which might be deemed necessary, it would save an immense deal of trouble and fruitless debate to us, and much money to the country. There may be some difficulty in organizing the board, as one engineer would not be enough, for the duties alone to be performed by such an officer in Charlotetown would be considerable; and there are works of importance in other parts of the Island as well as Charlotetown. Then we may find fault with giving him a large salary, as a competent engineer would not act for less than £300 per annum; but he would be well worth the money, and would save the amount of his salary in a twelvemonth. But, as I said before, one engineer is not competent to fulfil all the duties appertaining to his office, such as the inspection of buoys, light-houses, bridges, and other public works, and it would be far from wise to impose more duty on him than he would be able to perform. If, however, we now enter into the Bill, pass it, and it becomes law, one engineer might be appointed, as his salary would be as much as we can at the present time conveniently meet; and we could afterwards appoint another, when we see an absolute necessity for so doing. As to the Bill itself, I approve of it heartily, and am convinced every one will likewise give it their sanction and approval, because under the present system a great deal of money passes through the Road Correspondent's hands, which is not properly applied; and if this Bill were in operation, I am certain there would in future be no such misapplication of the public money, and therefore no room for complaint.

Mr. MACINTOSH.—I do not intend to oppose this Bill, though I can, I must confess, see but little advantage to be derived from its working. I suppose, by and by we will have one in each County, if we go on at this rate. However, admitting the Bill becomes law, and such a Board as it provides for be constituted, I would wish to know, where are they to find employment for an engineer or superintendent. [Hon. Mr. Wightman.—You forget the wharfs, bridges, buildings to be constructed, and roads, which demand that they should have a competent engineer to inspect such works.] Why, Sir, the buildings constructed twenty and forty years ago seem to stand as well as they should stand, and will, I have no doubt, stand as long as any to be constructed under the supervision of a Board of Works. If we are to have a Board of Works, then let us first see if it is absolutely required; for we might not have better buildings under its direction—buildings finished better, or that will stand longer than those built under the old superintendence. 'Tis useless to persuade me things will be better done with a Board of Works than before: I don't believe it. Besides, if all other considerations failed, we have as much on our hands as we can do for the present, and, therefore, it would be as well, in my opinion, to let the Bill go along with the Municipal Corporation Act, to the people.

Hon. Mr. PALMER.—Mr. Chairman, when a Board of Works was first spoken of, I was led to believe that it was contemplated to supersede the present system of Statute Labor, that it was to be so framed that some of its members were to act as chief overseers in behalf of each of the Counties, and oversee the proper doing of the roads thereof. But, Sir, the present Bill contains nothing of the kind; and, as it was with the understanding that the Bill was to do away with that system, I intend to give it my support, therefore, I do not intend to favour it under its present form. I think for all the principles contained by the Bill, as it now stands, there is no great necessity for a Board of that kind. I concur in the opinion expressed by the hon. member, Mr. Macintosh, that a Board of that kind is not called for, if we take into account the small amount of work for it to oversee. It is true, we have some public buildings to erect, which will require a competent overseer, and if the present system of superintendence be insufficient to fulfil the task, I have no objection to have its efficiency increased by any proper means; but I do object to the voting away of large sums of money, when there is no immediate necessity for so doing. According to my idea of the thing, the Board should be so constituted as to include three principal Commissioners—one for each County—each having a competent knowledge of the duties required of him, and to give ample security for the faithful performance of the duties of his office, so that they would be responsible for the proper execution and stability of all public works. Then the country would have true responsibility on the part of its officers. Statute Labor would be abolished, for I look upon a Bill of this kind as a remedy that will do away with that system. There is a great necessity for the law in that respect. Every day we become more convinced—since more money is lost to the Colony by Statute Labor than by anything else—that if the money appropriated for the road service was expended with more economy, there would be a saving to the country of many pounds. If this Bill is to rest with only the provisions embodied in it, it will be nothing more than we have at present—if this Bill constitute a Board of Works, then we have one already. There is nothing new in the Bill, and I will not give it my support in its present shape, with all the various expenses attendant on it. But if a Bill of the kind were so framed as to abolish Statute Labor, I would support it. Then the Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted, and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 27, 1857.

House in Committee of the whole on the Bill (from the Council) to amend the Practice of the Supreme Court. Hon. Col. Treasurer in the chair.

On the first clause of the Bill being read—
Hon. COL. SECRETARY explained that it provided that the trials by jury are to be heard the first, and also; that no petit jury can be detained more than two days.

The second clause, providing that, if a person be imprisoned on an execution or writ, the signature of a prothonotary to a note for the amount is sufficient and lawful; the former practice requiring the signature of a lawyer to such a document before the prisoner could be liberated, which entailed a considerable loss in time and money to the said prisoner. There was a short discussion on this clause, mainly in effect explaining more fully the advantages of such an Act, when the chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted.

A Bill was submitted, by the Hon. Col. Secretary, in accordance with an order to that effect, providing for an additional Assistant in the Post Office, and an increase of the salary of the present assistant, upon which the House

went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Perry in the chair. After some time spent therein, the chairman reported the Bill agreed to without amendment, which report was received, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed.

[The rule was suspended to go into committee of the whole on the above Bill in the afternoon.]

Mr. CLARK presented a report of the committee on Private Bills on the petition of Henry Bessemer, of London, which was received, and Hon. Col. Secretary presented a Bill to carry out the same, which was read a first time, and the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take the said Bill into consideration. Mr. Longworth in the chair.

House resumed. The chairman reported the Bill agreed to, which was received, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration a communication from the President of the Telegraph Company, embodying certain conditions in relation to the keeping up of telegraphic communication between this Island and the neighboring continent, and asking for a grant of £300 sterling for a period of fifty years. Mr. McDonald took the chair of the committee.

An animated debate ensued, from which it appeared that nearly all hon. members were unwilling to extend a grant to that or any other company for so long a time as fifty years, as it would give them a complete monopoly and prevent other enterprises of a like nature from being undertaken. Some hon. members thought twenty years would be long enough, but the majority were not in favor of extending a grant for a longer period than ten years. The amount was also pretty generally objected to, as being too large; but a sum of £300 currency, it was agreed, would be enough to give a length.

The House resumed. The chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted.

Mr. Perry submitted the report of the committee to whom were referred all petitions praying for the opening of new lines of Roads, which was referred to a committee of the whole House this afternoon. Adjourned for one hour. T. KIRWAN, Rep.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

On motion of Mr. Macdonald, the House went into committee of the whole on the further consideration of the subject relating to the Telegraph Company. After a few remarks from several hon. members, Hon. Col. Secretary moved the following resolution.

“Resolved, that it be recommended to the House to secure by Bill to the Newfoundland and New York Telegraph Company the sum of three hundred pounds currency, per year for ten years, provided the said Company keep up the communication with the neighboring Provinces, and also keep two offices, one at Cape Tormentine and one at Cape Traverse, during the winter months, and convey all messages connected with the Post Office in Charlotetown, and Telegraph Offices at the Capes, free of charge; and further provided that no higher rate of charge is made for messages than is now charged.”

The resolution was then agreed to by the committee, and the House having resumed, the chairman reported the resolution agreed to, which was adopted by the House, and Hon. Col. Secretary, Lord, and Mr. T. Heath Haviland, were appointed a committee to prepare and bring in a Bill in accordance therewith.

The House was a short time in committee on the Bill relating to the practice of the Supreme Court, after which it was reported agreed to with certain amendments, which were adopted by the House, and the rule of the House, relating to Bills having been suspended, the Bill and amendments were read a third time and passed.

The House then went into a committee of the whole on the report of the special committee on new lines of Roads. Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

Hon. Mr. Palmer presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Charlotetown, setting forth the evils resulting from the present mode of granting licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors, particularly from the granting of pint licenses to persons not having a store or tavern, and praying an amendment of the present law in relation to them; referred to a special committee consisting of Hons. Palmer, Col. Treasurer and Mr. T. Heath Haviland, to report thereon by Bill or otherwise. House adjourned. R. LAIRD, Rep.

SATURDAY, March 28, 1857.

As the Speaker was absent there was no House to-day.

MONDAY, March 30, 1857.

The Speaker laid before the House several communications he had received in relation to the late convention entered into between the Governments of England and France, by which the former cedes a large extent of territory on the Island of Newfoundland and Labrador to the latter power, protesting against the treaty, and asking the sympathy of the Legislature of this Colony in behalf of their views. Laid on the table.

The Bill to provide an additional Assistant in the Post Office, and increase the salary of the present assistant was read a third time and passed.

Mr. T. H. Haviland, according to notice, presented a petition from the shareholders in the Gas Light Company of Charlotetown, praying for an alteration in the mode of voting for directors, and introduced a Bill to carry out the objects of the said petition, which was read a first time. Mr. Haviland also presented a petition of the pastor and shareholders of the Free Church of Charlotetown, praying for an Act of Incorporation, and gave in a Bill to carry out the prayer of the petition, which was also read a first time, and both of the above Bills were referred to the committee on Private Bills.

The standing rule was suspended limiting the time for receiving private petitions, and Hon. Mr. Whelan presented a petition of Mrs. Ann Cullen, praying remuneration for certain services performed by her late husband, William Cullen, Esq., as Clerk of the Board of Health, and Clerk of the House of Assembly. Received, read, and laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Whelan also presented a petition of inhabitants of north side of St. Peter's Bay, setting forth that they have no school, and praying for the establishment of one, the former one having been removed from that locality, and Messrs. Whelan, Dingwell, Montgomery, McDonald, and T. H. Haviland, were appointed a special committee to inquire into the facts of the statements detailed in the above petition, and report on the same next Session.

Mr. Whelan, also, presented another petition of James Douglas, of Bay Fortune, if the statements in which were true, he said, was of the most peculiar and extraordinary nature, involving a case of fraud almost unparalleled in the history of this Island. He did not promise to advocate the prayer of the petition; but if the statements contained in it were true it should have his support. The petition was laid on the table.

A message was received from the Legislative Council, informing the House that the Council had passed the Act for the naturalization of Lawrence Warren.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the report of the Special Committee to whom was referred all petitions praying for the opening of new lines of roads. Mr. Muirhead in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Whelan moved to add a paragraph to the report, which was agreed to without division.

House resumed. The chairman reported the report agreed to with certain amendments accepted.

Mr. Perry presented the report of the Special Committee to whom was referred the petitions of teachers who have not complied with the provisions of the Free Education Act.

Hon. Mr. Lord said, he held in his hand petitions from the inhabitants of Crapaud, Tryon, Cape Traverse, &c. in relation to the introduction of the Bible into the public schools. As the Education Act had passed, he would merely intimate that he had received such petitions. The petitioners said, should an alteration be made in the Education Act the Bible should not be excluded from the District Schools, the Normal School, or the Academy.

Mr. Dingwell said he had also received a petition of a similar nature; but as the Education Act had passed, it was now too late to present it.

Adjourned for one hour.

T. KIRWAN, Rep.

Original Poetry.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

“WE BLOOM AMID THE SNOW.”

Lone on a grizzly mossy mound,
With debris strown of wild around,
Spangled with snowy shower,
Its bosom courting morning's smile,
Where ice-bells dangle gleam the while—
May cradle her sweet flower.

The hoarse storm's rage and polish'd sleet,
In furious blasts imperious beat,
And lash its humble bed;
But patient, mild, it foils the gale,
Spreads soft to Heaven its petals pale,
And lifts its blooming head.

Through cheerless nights and friendless days
No balmy airs, no sunny rays
The fragile flower attend.
Alone it braves the savage hour,
Sustained by All-pervading Power,
And triumphs in the end.

So fair, so lone, I seize the flower,
To snatch its bloom from wintry hour,
And shield from storm and gloom;
But to its home, all bleak and wild,
So fondly clings the fragile child,
I leave it there to bloom.

Fair herald! floral pioneer!
Sovereign of flowers! on wintry lay
In peerless beauty's pride!
The musing mind may learn of thee,
Meek conqueror of adversity,
A moral for its guide.

May, 1857.

WERAND.

(From the London Times, April 22, 1857.)

THE IRISH CHURCH EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The Irish Church Education Society is the small man of ordinary life, who is always at his neighbours to do his small jobs. The personage is one so common that a touch or two will bring him painfully to every experience. He is always wanting you to sacrifice your principles, your independence, your tranquility, your money, your time, everything that you value, for some little object of his own. If you have kept as clear a course as Cato the Younger, you must move every Board and every Secretary for his brother or his son, all the time that your own is starving. You must take up his ridiculous quarrels; you must join in his foolish crusade; you must write a hundred letters to people you never saw in your life for his protégé, whom you also never saw—a candidate for some monster suburban asylum; and you must introduce him to somebody you are shy of yourself; and bestow on his amiable but idiotic and empty young friend the college scholarship you have sworn before Heaven to give to the best man. When you have done all this, and lowered yourself as much in your own eyes as in the eyes of everybody about you, the “small man” rewards you as you richly deserve to be rewarded. He abuses you if you fail in his service, and despises you if you do not. Why should he not despise you, when you have done his dirty work for him? Cicero, doubtless, had such men in his eye when he said that people will do for their friends what they would never do for themselves. Our “small friend” across the Irish Channel, the Irish Church Education Society, is always wanting the nation at large to do for its particular sake what it has a hundred times more solemnly resolved to do on no account whatever. The British Legislature has sworn, as far as it can swear, not to lend a hand at proselytizing, not to confound politics with polemics, not to hound sect against sect, but to leave controversy as much as possible to its own natural course. The Irish Church Education Society would be delighted to see more money, were it only for the principle of the thing, wrenched from the reluctant hand of the Papist peasant or labourer to make his children Protestants; it would rejoice to see the British Parliament torn to pieces, and whole Sessions wasted in fruitless discussions as to the rule of faith, the principle of education, and the sacred necessity of some imaginary rule which nobody, in fact, observes. The “small man” of the British community would thus become what he always is in his own eyes—the greatest. Every other question, every improvement, everything possible, would be cast aside and forgotten, simply to obtain notoriety, a stage, and a hearing for a quarrel quite certain to lead to no positive result, and to go off in present clamour and future heart-burnings. The very statesmen entrapped into opening the floodgates of the controversy would be drowned in it, or carried a good way off their legs. But what of that? The worse for everybody else, the better for the “small man,” who rises only on the diminution of others, whose highest ambition is to be the spark of a general explosion, and who has no other way of roasting his potatoes than by setting fire to his neighbour's house.

The Irish Church Education Society is not a “small man” in every respect. Indeed, in many respects its very greatness contributes to its essential smallness of spirit and demeanour. It has the bulk of the landowners and the whole of the Church Establishment on its side. Not that every Irish clergyman is on its side, but every sixpence of the Church revenues is kept for the maintenance of the Established Church and its doctrines. It must therefore all count on the side of the Irish Church Education Society. For many generations the Church has had every political, territorial, and other material aid that State, landlord, college, or clergyman could give, and the present state of things, be it good or bad, is undeniably the result of that immense preponderance of secular advantages. Yet the Irish Church Education Society still continues its shrill, plaintive cry, for that which it has always enjoyed in such excess, and yet found so ineffective. The language of its noble, Parliamentary, legal, and clerical advocates at the annual meeting the other day, and of its report, is as whining and expostulatory as if, instead of being the wealthiest establishment, for its numbers, on the face of the earth, the Protestant clergy of Ireland had been for three hundred years a prescribed mountain sect, hunted like beasts, dwelling in caves, clothed in goatskins, and feeding on potatoes. They have to report and partially account for a continued decline of revenue and scholars. The figure which most distresses them is that which represents the number of Roman Catholic scholars somewhat less than sixteen thousand, out of the whole eighty-five thousand. This brand plucked out of the burning they are very proud of when they contemplate “the unparalleled exertions of the Papal Legate and the whole body of the Romish hierarchy banded together against them,” as well as “the large amount of public money for educational purposes placed at their disposal.” Here, they say, “is the United System of Education,” so much prized

and longed for by our rulers, and only to be found in these discarded schools. They are very right in making the most of these sixteen thousand, for they represent the whole present case of the Society. With the greater part of the soil of Ireland in their hands, with nearly all the Peerage and most of the Lower House, with the entire revenues of the Establishment, and, with a slight qualification, Trinity College in their hands, the Protestants of Ireland must be supposed fully able to take care of their own children. They have not a shadow of a case for one farthing of public money. The whole of the question relates to the Roman Catholic children whom they may induce to attend their schools. The number of these now amounts to 15,770. Their argument is, that if they get so many with so much polemical opposition and no public assistance, they would get many more with a little of the latter; and that the State is bound to give the latter, on its own principle of “United Education.”

This brings the whole of this interminable agitation to a very simple issue. Let our readers just imagine for themselves that amount of public money which, in addition to the immense public or private resources of the Irish Protestants, would raise the number of Roman Catholic children in the schools of the Irish Church Education Society from sixteen thousand to double that number, and they have the present question before them in an intelligible shape. We do not know what estimate other people would make, but, taking the model of corrupt borough contests, and the rapidly increasing scale of bribery when once it is known to be a question of money, we should think that in order to enable the Irish Church Education Society to get into its schools sixteen thousand more children it would require public assistance to the amount of a quarter of a million of money. This estimate we are prepared to show reasons for, if necessary, but we should think it will recommend itself to anybody acquainted with the laws of political and controversial supply and demand. Such, then, is the modest application of our “small friend” the Irish Church Education Society. It is that Lord Palmerston, or the Premier for the time being, a man at the mercy of Parliamentary majorities, called to account for every sixpence of public money, and charged with the difficult task of concentrating the time and labour of the Session and the interest of the public at large on certain measures of general utility, is to throw everything into confusion and bring this empire to the verge of chaos by giving the wealthy Church Establishment of Ireland a quarter of a million, more or less—less certainly would not do it—to enable it to proselytize sixteen thousand children of Roman Catholic parents. Familiar as we are with the applications of small men—of the class that is always asking one to sell one's soul to get somebody else 50*l.* a year—we nevertheless give the palm of surpassing impudence to the demand of the Irish Church Education Society. In no other case that we can call to mind is the result so utterly disproportionate to the cost; in no other is the gain so inconsiderable, not to say questionable, and the sacrifice of money, principle, and peace so immense. It would be more than immense, for it would be infinite. Once recognized and assisted by the State as a proselytizing Church, once able to boast of its thirty-two thousand Roman Catholic scholars, once figuring in our Education Estimates at its 250,000*l.*—we repeat, not a farthing less would do it,—all Ireland would be hurled back down the precipice upon which it has just painfully climbed into that pit of anarchy from which we hoped it had finally escaped. Chronic rebellion, thirty thousand soldiers, monster meetings, fraternal agitations, conspiracies, altar denunciations, and a perfect torrent of abuse against the whole English race from every pulpit, every platform, and every press in Ireland, eagerly caught up by our continental rivals and loudly echoed from across the Atlantic, would be the sure result of the policy urged, as a matter of conscience, by the Irish Church Education Society. How it would all end we fear even to conjecture. The return of a fever is always worse than the first attack. We know what the first attack of Irish agitation has been, and have no wish to run the risk of a second.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—In a country like ours, where Bible advocates are so very numerous, one would fondly hope that something of the spirit of that sacred book, would manifest itself in the conduct of its boasting adherents. We would suppose them a quiet and peace-loving people, affording their antipathetic neighbours a noble example of kindness and Christian forbearance, noiselessly pursuing the even tenor of their way, and lovingly endeavouring to win their mistaken friends from their errors. But unhappily, Sir, we frequently find them pursuing a widely different course, and countenancing the most disgraceful and unwarrantable proceedings. Take the following as an illustration:—Pursuant to announcement, Mr. Cephas Barker lectured at Traveller's Rest on Thursday evening, 21st inst. On the course he had pursued in the late educational controversy, for the purpose of defending himself against the untruthful and calumniating attacks made on him by the *Protector* newspaper. During the day, various attempts had been made to prevent the meeting being held in the School House. The Trustees, however, opened the door, and the meeting commenced in the usual manner. A goodly number attended, although many had been advised not to go, some positively forbidden, and others told that the meeting was not going on. Mr. Barker then proceeded in a masterly manner to refute the charges brought against him, in such a manner, that had the reverend authors of the same been present, they must have covered beneath the withering rebuke of the learned lecturer. In a word, Sir, he convinced his intelligent audience of the propriety of his course as a Briton and a Christian. But scarcely had he commenced, when a number of young men, Bible advocates, of course, surrounded the house, and commenced whooping and yelling as if they had been a tribe of savage Indians, wild from the forest. They came close to the window, and sang a vulgar ballad. They next repaired to the house of Richard Hunt, Esq., merchant, brother to the late Deputy Sheriff, and obtained, in his presence, a cask to serve as a drum; this they rolled to the School House door, and commenced drumming away with might and main. One of the Trustees went out to quiet the mob, when one of the rowdies received an egg in the face, intended for the Trustee. The meeting having, at length, closed, they continued bellowing and screaming in such a horrid manner, that had any stranger been passing, he would probably have supposed that he had missed his way, and unexpectedly found himself among the Furies of Orestes. They next pelted the house of all supposed to be favourable to Mr. Barker, with eggs, &c., while their language and actions were vile and indecent in the extreme. It may well be asked where were the magistrates? One was in Halifax, (Mr. Muirhead,) another was present, to whom they paid but little heed, but the third, and eldest of them, heard what was going on, and was believed to countenance it. Listen to his words, and let the public judge for themselves. Speaking to the Trustees above referred to, he said: “Only that my hands were tied, you would have been mobbed.” Now, Sir, let it be distinctly understood, throughout this community, that the parties who have thus signally disgraced themselves, plume themselves on their Bible advocacy, and are hostile to Mr. Barker for the course he has taken. Probably, the next thing we shall see, will be a *Protector* editorial, headed “The Barker Reception,” in which the very Christian spirit of its editors may again be seen; or, perchance, our great poet, who has weighed the powers that be in his balances, being in need of a little “jingle,” to buy a new coat, to wear with his new white hat, may compose another four-penny ballad, hawk it about the streets, or sell it by re-