

THE REV MINER:

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EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when free-born men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

[EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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Cleanings from late Papers.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

OPENING OF A NEW BATTERY AND CONSTELLATION OF THE RUSSIANS.

April 13.—Last night was wild and unfavourable, with continued heavy rain, yet still our bombardment never slackened for a moment. The Beagle, which was moored off Sebastopol at a long range, also assisted in the fire, by casting loose her Lancaster guns, and throwing shells into the works the whole night. She also fired about 50 Congreve rockets into the works opposed to the French. This morning, when our batteries re-commenced, the effects of our assault were still more apparent. The fire of the Flagstaff was evidently slack, even more marked so than on the previous evening. It scarcely replied one gun to the French three. The devastating traces of the shot were also most apparent. Not only are the lower tier of guns quite destroyed, but the upper seem in a fair way of following them. Two or three of them are already dismantled, and the earth of the parapets so seamed and torn that the rest of the ordnance appear as if pointing out between loose piles of earth. The flanking batteries are now being fired at, and apparently with much effect. The Barrack work is also suffering much, and nearly one-third of its embrasures are empty. The Redan still shows a bold front. As I have already said, this colossal work is at so long a range from ours (1,250 yards), and mounts such an enormous mass of ordnance, that it would stand its present battering for two or three weeks to come, without receiving such injury as to render it untenable. But this is a matter of no moment. The Redan, *per se*, is a strong battery, but, unlike the Flagstaff or Malakoff, it is by no means so importantly situated as to necessitate our taking it by storm. The former works are the keys of the enemy's position; when they are silenced and captured, the Redan will fall of itself, as it will cease to be tenable. The new battery which I mentioned last night as being formed in the advanced trench, was completed and opened this morning. The tremendous volley with which it commenced quite took the Russians by surprise. Each day they have been accustomed to see our 10-inch mortars fire from the same part of our works, and doubtless from that very reason never anticipated further molestation (which, indeed, may be considered almost unnecessary, so well were our mortars manned) from the same quarter. The sudden and continued fire, therefore, of eight enormous guns, in addition to their old assailants, the mortars, was a complete and unpleasant surprise. At the first discharge one of their guns was dismantled and another injured, and their artillery men either ran away or concealed themselves, as they were not to be seen. Only one gun was fired in reply, so that for five or ten minutes our battery had nothing to do but blaze away without fear of opposition. After that time the enemy appeared to take heart, and several guns were fired, but it was fully half an hour before they made anything like a vigorous defence. Then, indeed, the fire they maintained showed that very many of the embrasures which were supposed to be silenced had merely had their guns withdrawn, and these they brought forward and well manned. For about an hour the enemy fought with great determination, but from the first they had no chance of being able to maintain it long. Directly it was seen that the Malakoff works were determined to engage our advanced battery, one face of Gordon's Battery, mounting ten guns and two mortars, was directed upon it, and the three 13-inch mortar battery at the picket house also threw its missiles against the Round Tower. With these, and with the assistance of the four 10-inch mortars near the advanced work, and several cohorts throwing 32lb. shell, a perfect hail was poured into our old enemy. As I have said, for a time it was well fought, but our immense shot dismantled the guns or cut up the earthworks, while the shell dropping over burst continually among its defenders. Towards eight o'clock its fire had slackened considerably, and before nine the enemy for that time gave up the contest as hopeless, and such guns as could still be used were withdrawn from the embrasures and our batteries left to do their worst upon the earthworks. During this battery fight the Mamelon, as usual, revived from its state of inaction, and, to the astonishment of every one, put forward five guns and fired them continually. The demonstration, however, did little good beyond drawing on it, when the Malakoff was quiet, the fire of the mortar battery at the picket-house, and under these tremendous bombs it was soon reduced to its former inaction. Our advanced work then continued to fire at the Malakoff, which never offered any serious resistance for the remainder of the day. Every 20 minutes or so two or three of its guns were run forward and fired, but beyond this it was quiet, and seemed to have no more than 20 or 30 men in it. The result of this day's bombardment has again been most favourable to the allies. The Flagstaff battery still makes an heroic defence, but is evidently sinking fast. The Redan is still vigorous, but on the whole line the enemy's fire is not half that of the allies. To-day our superiority has been much more marked than ever, the Russians not replying one gun to our three or four. Our casualties are, as usual, heaviest among the naval brigade, which, though less than a sixth of the force in the batteries, furnishes rather over one-third of our total loss. The average each day has been about 60 killed and wounded, and about 100 French. To-day Lieut. Death, R.N., and Lieut. Steele, of the R.M.A., were wounded, but neither very severely. The wounded are now infinitely better taken care of than at the former bombardment. The ambulances remain in sheltered ravines behind the batteries, in which the wounded are conveyed to head-quarters, and there placed upon the railway truck and sent down easily to Bala Clava. The cases of amputation and severe wounds remain there in hospital; the others are immediately embarked on board ship.

PREPARATIONS FOR A GENERAL ASSAULT.

Preparations are evidently making for a general assault. Our shells, on which we entirely rely for hindering the repair of the enemy's works during the night, are going fast and will most likely be quite gone by to-morrow night. The tramway, to be sure, can bring up a day or two's supply, but it is wanted for other things, and besides it has been occupied all to-day in getting up 300 tons of powder from Bala-Clava to the front. When our supply of shell is exhausted we must storm, or quietly yield up the advantages our cannonade has given us, and sink back into the state in which we were after the attack of the 17th. Lord Raglan is busy every where, aiding and consulting with the engineers, generals, and the principal officers of the army. Canrobert seems never off his horse. To-day between 500 and 600 scaling ladders arrived

at the camp, and will be forwarded to the advanced trenches to-night. A new battery also will be completed before to-morrow morning. It is to mount eight 84-pounders, and will be placed in the most advanced trench, near the middle ravine. All the embrasures, gunways, and other preparations for the ordnance are completed; in fact, two of the pieces are already placed. The remaining six will go down to-night, and the battery opens fire with the rest to-morrow morning. It will attack only the Malakoff, and great things are expected from one of such strength, situated within 500 yards of the enemy's works. The allied troops now round Bala Clava consist of the remains of the three regiments of Guards, the 79th, 71st, 93rd, and 42nd Highlanders, with about 1,200 Marines, a force of Artillery, three regiments of Zouaves, one of Chasseurs, and three regiments of French Infantry of the line, in all about 15,000 men. The Zouaves, Highlanders and Marines will be invaluable auxiliaries at the assault. After what they have done it is superfluous to say what the Guards would be now, but I believe they will not be at the storming in consequence of their sadly diminished numbers, and the majority of the men being still weakly after their winter sufferings. The British Artillerymen, with the Guards, therefore, will remain with the Turks at Bala Clava.

"WE ARE AT IT AT LAST!"

The following letter has just been received from Sergeant Dunkley, of the 97th Regiment. It is dated before Sebastopol, April 9:—"We are at it at last. Bombardment opened this morning at daylight, from the allies, and at this moment Sebastopol is in one blaze of fire. You cannot hear men speaking a yard from you for the noise of cannon. Our Sailors' Battery is playing the devil; they have already silenced two batteries in their front; but still the Russians are throwing in a tremendous fire. We have been belted all night. The sailors look like devils; they have pulled off all but their trousers, and it is raining very hard; so what with the rain and powder running down their naked bodies, and the noise of the siege, it is a strange sight. It is reported we are to make a rush in the morning with the bayonet; that will be the moment of glory. They never can stand us, I think. The mail goes at seven to-morrow morning; it is now five p. m. I am very unsettled, and all is uproar. As yet the fleet have not taken any part, but I think they will wait until we have got into the city, and then force the passage and engage the forts on the north side. If they don't, I think we shall find the forts very warm after we get in. Two or three of the captains of the large ships (steam line-of-battle ships, I think and I hear) have volunteered to break the chain of sunken ships across the harbor, and to open the passage. Waggon loads of wood are now going past my tent. They say the Light Division leads the assault. I hope so, as we now belong to it."

(From the St. John N. B. Church Witness.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—A correspondent of the Halifax Presbyterian Witness furnishes the following interesting summary of intelligence from this Province:—

Since I last wrote you, the monotonous movements of Charlottetown have been considerably relieved by the proceedings of our Colonial Legislature. The political party who at present have the ascendancy, since they first came into power have carried some very important measures which have given pretty general satisfaction to the inhabitants of this Island. By their exertion what is called Responsible Government was first obtained. They have greatly modified the laws respecting the Franchise, as the people now enjoy nearly universal suffrage. They have established a system of education termed the Free School system, which bids fair to effect most advantageous results. This system is supported by a very moderate tax principally on lands. All cultivated land is required to pay about four shillings per hundred acres, and wilderness land about twice that amount. This is evidently intended to encourage the more speedy settlement of the wilderness land, and especially to induce the larger proprietors, who claim the greater part of the land on the Island, to sell or lease to settlers on more easy terms than they would otherwise be disposed to give. This, in many instances, has already had the desired effect, and from what has already been accomplished in this respect, the most beneficial results may yet be anticipated. To enter into a minute description of the manner in which the Free School system is carried out would occupy too much space in your valuable paper. I may state, however, that a yearly salary of £45 or £50 is given out of the Public Treasury to each male teacher, and £30 to each female teacher. And all that the proprietors of schools in each district require to do is to erect their school houses and supply their children with books, which they obtain at a very reduced price from the Board of Education, except in some cases when they are anxious to obtain the services of a very excellent teacher, they give a small sum in addition to the government salary. It is now about three years since this system came into operation, and the principal difficulty in carrying it out has hitherto been the great deficiency in the number of qualified teachers. This deficiency has chiefly resulted from the high qualifications which the Board of Education demand before a teacher can obtain license. But this difficulty is rapidly diminishing, as many of the more efficient schools are sending forth considerable numbers of pupils who obtain license as competent teachers. This remark is particularly applicable to a school taught by Mr. Samson Farquharson in King's County, from which, during the last year, eight teachers have come out who not only bring with them an education qualifying them at once to pass the Board of Education as first class teachers, but also a most excellent system of conducting a school, which cannot fail to secure great success wherever they may be employed.

The Legislature, during its present session, have passed a Bill to support a Normal Training School, in which all the teachers on the Island will be required to remain for at least three months, so that they may acquire a uniform system of conducting their schools. The Legislature have also passed what is called the Tenant Compensation Act, which will require the landlords to remunerate the tenants for their improvements before they can be ejected for the non-payment of rent. They have also granted the sum of £2,000 out of the Colonial Treasury for the Patriotic Fund. In addition to these Bills which have already been carried, they have the Maine Liquor Law and a Bill for the Incorporation of Charlottetown under consideration.

THE SEAL FISHERY.—As the season advances here there is an increasing anxiety as to the result of this hazardous enterprise. Only about twenty vessels have returned to this Port and Conception Bay, of which seven or eight came in

here yesterday. The result as respects these is on the whole favourable, but the reports of those out are anything but cheering. One encouraging circumstance, however, is that the greater number of the vessels come in took their seals late.—*St. John's Nfld., April 21.*

The Kingston (Canada) News, of the 1st inst., states that, in consequence of the price of flour having been raised to thirteen dollars per barrel, the people of Smith's Falls have broken open the stores and helped themselves *ad libitum*. A great deal of suffering is said to prevail in the Township of Marlborough and the adjacent Townships, which were devastated by the fire last August, many of the settlers being destitute of food, and the means of procuring seed for their spring crops.

Twenty-eight hundred and seventy-six dollars worth of butter, the product of Canada and Nova Scotia, was entered at the Custom House, Boston, on the 27th ult., per Bark Halifax.

Correspondence.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

You have no doubt read in the published debates on the land question, that the Hon. Mr. Coles accused me of breaking my pledge, and I am now to justify my conduct, and show, by a statement of the case, that I need to do so for your interest, and for the benefit of the people at large.

The pledge was proposed to me by the Hon. James Dingwall, that I would support the Government to carry out the Purchase Bill. I do not know whether he had any authority from you to put such a pledge to me, or whether he acted as agent for the Government. If the latter, he was, no doubt, initiated into their secrets, and must have known that they were intending to do something which they knew I would be opposed to. But I was satisfied with the Purchase Bill, and promised to support the Government to carry it into operation, but not without an investigation of the titles of land.

Soon after the election, I had reason to suspect that there was some foul play intended, and it was my duty to prevent it, if possible, by informing the people; and as there was no meeting called in the District, as intended, I published a pamphlet containing the correspondence between the Hon. Mr. Coles and myself, giving both our views on the subject of the land question, for the information of the people, who were mainly interested.

The prosperity at stake is so great, and the people have been so often disappointed and deceived, that they can scarcely place confidence in any one, and as I have been suspected as well as others, I shall have to take a review of the past proceedings on the land question, and the part I have taken in that question, to enable you to form an opinion of my motives at present.

The public records shew that an Act was passed in the year 1803, with the advice of the British Government, for the escheat of the forfeited lands. In the year 1805 the House of Assembly came to several resolutions, implying that the Bill of Escheat had been made away with. In the year 1806 the House of Assembly appointed a committee to bring in a new Bill; but as no Bill was brought in, we may believe that the House of Assembly was overawed, deceived or something else, for the question dropped for years afterwards. The same spirit of deceit and corruption which prevailed then—first to erect, and then to destroy the Bill of Escheat—is now at work as strong as formerly to defeat one clause in the Land Purchase Bill, viz: for the investigation of the landlords' titles to the townships.

If the men in the Island had made a firm stand for their rights when Governor Fanning destroyed the Bill of Escheat, they would have obtained their rights at that time; instead of which, I have been told they grumbled, disputed, and accused one another, and were led like children into bondage, and became tenants to impostors, whose sole study was to deceive and enslave them, and have their labour to clear an estate, and pay a rent for their own improvements. But except the murmuring and general dissatisfaction, the land question appears to have remained quiet until Mr. McAulay made a motion in the House of Assembly, on behalf of 800 petitioners, in the year 1825, which was voted premature.

It should be borne in mind that when Governor Fanning and his Council destroyed the Bill of Escheat, he could not have done so without a party in the Island, and traitors in the Colonial Office in England to support him and deceive the people. The destruction of such a Bill would have brought disgrace upon the Colonial Office if it had been found out and brought before the public; and, therefore, to prevent such an explosion and disgrace, the Colonial Minister had to find Governors—men who were fit for the purposes of deception—and send them unconstitutional despatches to enable them to help the usurpers to uphold the deception and keep the people in bondage.

When I took up the question, in the year 1831, I had no idea of the host I had to contend with. The people had to be informed, in the first place, of what was their rights. But where there was one to advise them right, for their own interests, there were many to advise them wrong, for the landlords' interest, besides the power the usurpers had to intimidate them with prosecutions for rent. Then I was at considerable expense and loss of time. My former friends forsook me, and turned my most bitter enemies. I was deprived of my offices, and prosecuted with law-suits. I was imprisoned by the House of Assembly two sessions, and deprived of my pay, but never intimidated. Such sacrifices gained me the confidence of all those who understood that I was suffering for trying to gain their rights. But there were many others who cannot see so far, and learn to repeat anything their masters, the landlords, will learn them; and I do not expect their masters will learn them to sing a song in my praise. But I may still try to teach them better, when I can show them they have been taught to sing against their own interests. The House of Assembly, this Session, voted the two years' back pay which has been due to me these seventeen years; voted formerly by the House, and refused by the Council. My colleagues in persecution—Messrs. McIntosh and LeLacheur—received theirs two years ago; yet this vote of my back pay is made a song of in the country. But I do not mean songs, I mean words, which are caught up at second-hand by people who cannot think for themselves, but can repeat words when put into their mouth to put a stop to all reasoning or argument, such as

the old song in reference to myself, which sent the usurpers into the House of Assembly at the election of 1842. "Oh," said one, "he had £300 for going to England!" And when they are told that officers of Government had £400 a year for remaining at home and attending to other interests for the benefit of their families, and that I had to leave my work on my farm and pay my expenses to England and back—"But what good did he do by going there?" is the next objection. As the people have done themselves a great deal of injury by such objections, it is to answer them that I have introduced this subject.

When I went to England the first time, it was as a delegate from the tenantry. I was received by Lord Glenelg, who spoke freely with me on the state of the tenantry, but said that I was in a minority in the House of Assembly, and was not an authorised agent from any branch of the Legislature, consequently he could not give me an official answer, and, therefore, I could urge no further. But when the people returned men at the next election, in 1833, to advocate their interests, and it was thought proper by the House of Assembly that I should return to England again; and being allowed £300 by the Legislature, I was the agent of the Legislature as far as the vote to defray my expenses went, and was received as such by the Marquis of Normanby. He said he had written to the Island for more information, and he could not give me an answer until he received it. The Marquis has been known as an upright man, who would not be guilty of an unworthy or dishonorable action, and I then thought that when he found so much inquiry had been practised against the Island, and more required, he would have nothing to do with it, for when the answer came from the Island, Lord John Russell, who was less scrupulous, exchanged with the Marquis for the Colonial Office, and like a guilty person, or one in debt and unwilling to pay, he refused to see me or send me an answer. Then, at my request, Joseph Hume, M. P., acted as agent for the Colony *without pay*, because he found the Colony had been unjustly treated by the Colonial Office. Mr. Hume received documents from the House of Assembly, which he presented to the Colonial Office, and when he called upon the Minister for an answer, the Minister said there was to be a new election in the Island, and he could not give an answer until he was informed by the returns of members whether the people continued of the same opinion as formerly.

The landlords had held up the £300, paid to a delegate, in so many shapes and forms, before the eyes of the people, that they were fairly blinded to their own interest, and lost sight of their bondage and of the £30,000, the yearly rent they were paying to impostors, the very men who were deceiving them consequently.

The election of 1842 was in favor of the usurpers and against the tenantry, and what was gained by ten years' agitation was lost for another ten years by that election; and as I could do no more good for the people when I was in a minority, and the people themselves bewildered, I would not keep my seat for the sake of pay, and, therefore, I left the House of Assembly to do something for myself. But the good seed which was sown during that ten years' agitation has grown up, first into Earl Grey's despatch, and then into an Act to investigate landlords' titles, and the people may now take the fruit if they will mount the tree; if not, the ravens will have it all to themselves.

The agitation which was commenced in 1831 was partially kept up until Responsible Government was conceded, in 1851, and that was the first step gained towards the settlement of the land question. It appears that most of the tenantry had given up the prospect of any settlement, and saw nothing before them but to remain tenants and drag out a life in bondage. But the Ministry had not forgotten the inquiry they had practised, nor the lesson the agitation had taught them, and they had to meet the difficulty when Responsible Government was granted, and the main object was to send out a Governor, an able politician, who could form a party in the Island who would settle the people off-hand, or take upon themselves the responsibility of deceiving the people and delaying the settlement—but whatever way they may do it, save the Colonial Office from the disgrace.

When I arrived in Charlottetown from the far West, in June, 1851, Allan Fraser, a *trustworthy man*, brought me a copy of Earl Grey's despatch, saying he felt very doubtful the Government did not intend to take advantage of what good was in the despatch. They leaned upon the opposite side, and he regretted very much the absence of McIntosh, LeLacheur and myself from the House of Assembly at such a time. I saw the advantage gained by the ten years' agitation, and that Sir Alexander's attention was particularly directed to it, and it was with the intention that it should not be destroyed, like the Bill of Escheat by Governor Fanning, that an address was presented to Sir Alexander from the inhabitants of King's County. The despatch and address are both printed in the pamphlet.

Sir Alexander said, in presence of Messrs. McIntosh and McInnis, who went with me to present the address, that he had read all my communications at the Colonial Office. If my communications were thought worthy of Earl Grey directing Sir Alexander to read them in the office, they certainly were worth all they cost this country.

The despatch in Earl Grey's instructions to Sir Alexander Bannerman, and to Governor Daly also, and is dated the 12th February, 1851, Earl Grey says—"I am particularly anxious to direct your attention to a question which affects more than any other the political and social wellbeing of the community. It is a matter of the highest importance, and that some satisfactory arrangement of it should now take place. I mean the subject of the landed tenures. You will refer to the correspondence between the Colonial Office and Prince Edward, since the year 1832, and you will inform yourself of all the particulars." Now, these are the documents which Sir Alexander read at the Colonial Office.

I must here observe, that Ministers having encouraged Governor Fanning to destroy the Bill of Escheat and a usurpation of the forfeited lands, every succeeding Minister had to countenance the usurpation in some way or other, or create a rupture in the Government. Therefore, the Colonial Ministers have written their despatches to suit the occasion, that the party in power in the Colony—the usurpers—might find something to favor their views. But this last despatch, although it points both ways, declares it to be "a matter of the highest importance that some satisfactory arrangement of it should now take place," and was written expressly for the introduction of Responsible Government.

When Sir Alexander arrived, the Family Compact—the head of the usurpers—were in power and could no longer govern the people. They were to have one year's rent only, under the authority of the Home Government, to be collected by troops, if necessary, and go into retirement with a pension,