

vestigation. To them, therefore, as leaders in the legislative discussion of the question, may be safely entrusted the conducting of the inquiry to a satisfactory and safe conclusion.

This, however, need not now prevent our offering a few speculations touching the issue of the enquiry; and we shall, therefore, lay before the public such conjectures *there ament*, as we have a strong assurance will be realized in the main features of the Bill that shall finally determine the matter.

In this Colony we have at present two kinds of Currency. One of these may be correctly styled the *commercial*, and, with equal propriety, the other may be termed the *legal* Currency. According to the first, the Spanish or American dollar is reckoned at six shillings Currency, and the British sovereign at thirty shillings, and so on throughout its sub-divisions. According to the second, the Spanish or American dollar is estimated at five shillings Currency, and British money is equal to one ninth more in Currency.

Until about the commencement of the year 1834, (when the merchants of Charlottetown, at a public meeting, convened for the purpose of considering the state of the Island Currency, unanimously determined, with a view to prevent the Island's being drained of specie, to raise the nominal and current value of foreign and British coins to their present rates,) the rate of Currency in this Island was the same as in Nova Scotia, being regulated by the standard of the British Guinea, legally reckoned and circulating in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for 23s. 4d. Currency. Hence, to bring British or Sterling money into Currency, the rule was to add *one ninth*, and *vice versa*, or to bring Currency into Sterling, from the Currency was subtracted *one tenth*. This is still the practice in Nova Scotia, and ought still to be the practice in Prince Edward Island, in all settlements for rents reserved in Sterling money; although we could name some Island Proprietors who (availing themselves, for an authority, of certain decisions of the Supreme Court, have, in some cases, unjustly exacted from their tenants as the merciless Shylock would have done his bond of human flesh—the utmost that "Law allowed and Court awarded," that is, payment of rents in dollars at the legal currency of five shillings each when at the same time as now the commercial rate was six shillings: thus defrauding their poor and helpless bondsmen of four shillings on the pound; or, in other words, with abominable injustice adding one fifth to their rents. And there are others amongst the Proprietors, who, we fear, have been merely "biding their time" to practise similar exactions. But the action of the new House with reference to this subject—we mean the rate of the Currency for the payment of rents—will, we trust, completely deprive the unprincipled and unfeeling amongst our Proprietors, of the power, though not the will, any longer thus to rob their Tenantry under the colour of "the Law;" for, whether the Legislature may think fit to establish, by Law, the present rates of our Currency, or to assimilate our rates to those of the adjacent Provinces, the Tenantry will in either case obtain redress and protection, as respects *one* of their grievances; since the Proprietors, for what they style *British* Sterling, will have to accept from their Tenants payment of Rents in the Cur-

rency of the Island, whatever it may be, with the addition of *one ninth*.

We are well aware of the ferocious outcry which will be raised against the Liberals, by a certain class of Proprietors and all in their interests especially by the well-fed, prosperous Agents or "*Factor Bodies*," (as with, in many instances, deserved contempt, Land Stewards are frequently termed in Scotland) when they shall find that, supported by justice and armed with power, the *true* representatives of the people in our Colonial Parliament, are prepared and resolved to render nugatory, by legislative enactment, the most severe and galling of the obligatory clauses in the oppressive and fraudulent leases which, generally speaking, Proprietors or Agents have imposed upon the Tenantry.

We are also prepared for the old thread-bare arguments about vested rights—the inviolability of mutual contracts—the power and determination of the law, &c.—which will be opposed, in the Legislature, by Proprietors and Proprietary Agents, to any movement having for its object the striking off the gyves from the fettered tenantry. Yes, we are prepared to meet them, and by sound reasoning and legitimate deductions, successfully to controvert their spiritless, selfish sophisms. And, meanwhile, as a sample of the stern facts, irrefragable reasoning, and incontrovertible inferential conclusions, by which, in Session, they may expect to be opposed and defeated, we shall simply remind them that Parliament is the supreme power throughout the British Empire; and that if a British Parliament had power to interpose its authority, and to say to the money-lending usurer, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther," it has also power to say to the usoriously oppressive landlord, "Thou shalt not oppress thy tenant by enforcing from him a rent for thy land, which if exacted by thee, as interest for a loan of money equivalent to the value of thy land, would subject thee to the penalties imposed by the Law for the suppression of usury." And if this power to prevent the unhallowed gains of the wily usurer, and to interpose its authority between the rapacious landlord and his rack-rent ridden tenant be, as all must admit it is, inherent in the Imperial Parliament, the same power is undoubtedly vested in the Parliament of every British Colony in which a system of Responsible Government has been established; as happily for the tenantry and the best interests of the people in general, will shortly be the case here.

In our next we purpose briefly to inquire how far the Imperial Parliament and Government may be considered bound by the obligations of honour and justice to assist in freeing our Island tenantry from the galling yoke which at present depresses their energies; but which could never have been imposed upon settlers in this Colony, had it not been for the very impolitic act of the British Government, in granting away, in large tracts, the whole of the Island in one day.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"FAIR PLAY."—Though we fully concur in all the observations you have addressed to the important personage with whose name you commence your well-written Letter, yet, we feel assured, no good purpose could be served by their publication at the present moment.

We receive, almost every day, letters from parties in the Country, requesting THE EXAMINER to be forwarded to them. It is disagreeable to us to have to refuse complying with such requests; but, having suffered severely, in times past, from sending our Paper to every one who would chose to take it, we must remind those who are now anxious to become subscribers, that if they would ensure attention to their wishes in this respect, and a regular transmission of the Paper, they should lose no time in paying the *advance*. In the present series of THE EXAMINER we give as much reading matter for ten shillings (if the whole is paid in advance) as we did in the former one for fifteen shillings: that contained eight pages, issued once a week; the present EXAMINER consists of four pages of the same size exactly, issued twice a week; thus we give information at a much cheaper rate than any other Newspaper publisher in the Town. We do this in order to obtain (which we trust we shall soon have) a wide circulation, and such a one as will pay us for our labour, as the amount required from each subscriber is very small.

We request our friends in every part of the Island—and not only our friends, but those who are favourable to the cause of which we are the advocate and exponent—to use their influence towards promoting the circulation of "The Examiner" amongst those who are able and willing to pay for it. Without a Liberal Paper, a Liberal party, either in or out of the Legislature, cannot long retain its hold on public opinion, and successfully resist the assaults of the common enemy.

For the accommodation of our country subscribers we print Wednesday's and Saturday's papers, together, on one sheet. In this way they will be liable to single postage only. By cutting the sheet in two halves the pages of each No. will then run in their proper order.

THE COLONIES.

We are given to understand that ministers contemplate a bold innovation and great improvement in our Colonial policy. They have, after mature deliberation, arrived at the conclusion that justice and expediency alike demand the concession of entire self-government to the Colonies in local affairs. They intend to reserve to the central Imperial Government the exercise only of those functions which are indispensable to unity of action in the foreign relations of the Empire.—And it is understood that they are prepared to intimate to the Colonies their intention to withdraw the troops from every one of them that will make the necessary arrangements, and take upon itself the cost of its defensive establishments.

Whether these contemplated reforms will be announced in the Royal Speech, or a ministerial declaration emitted at an early period of the Session, seems yet undecided.—*London Daily News*.

During the last year there were 83 vessels, whose tonnage amounted to 14,826 tons—built on Prince Edward Island.

Foreign News.

UNITED STATES.

The tone in both branches of Congress, on the Slavery question, is anything but compromising. The most violent harangues continue to be made by Southern Representatives of ultra principles—thus forcing moderate men, from the North, who are disposed to meet their Southern brethren on terms admitting of honorable

compromise and arrangement. Great excitement exists in the public mind, in consequence of this state of affairs.

Fears are entertained for the stability of the Union, and public meetings are being continually held, at which the issue in Congress, and its consequences, are discussed with very little discretion. The leading Northern Press, however, decry the apprehensions entertained on this head. The N. Y. Herald says:

"The debates are fraught with a great deal of interest to the United States, and to the perpetuity of the United States as a republic. If the confederacy survive the shock which it must soon experience, there will be no limit to its duration. It must not be supposed, however, that because a few noisy Senators or members of the House of Representatives talk familiarly about dissolution, that such a contingency is deliberated upon seriously by the great bulk of the people in either the Northern or Southern States. On the contrary, we are perfectly well satisfied that the Union is safe, perfectly safe no matter to what extent fanaticism, of either Northern or Southern origin, as exhibited by its respective representatives in Washington, may go.

"The Union, we imagine, is perfectly safe against everything but the new-born zeal of its friends (?) to *preserve* it. People generally derive their information that our glorious "Union is in danger," from huge placards in the streets, and ominous newspaper paragraphs, asseverating that the "Union must be preserved." That it will be preserved, notwithstanding the efforts to excite the public mind as to its safety, we do not, of course, permit ourselves to doubt. But the fact cannot be concealed, that the constant agitation of the public mind on this subject, may have a tendency to interfere with the general prosperity with which our beloved country is now blessed. The *Post* truly observes, that this excitement is but a new phase of Millerism."

FIGHTING IN CALIFORNIA.—It appears from the Alta Californian that serious difficulties are likely to arise between the Americans and Foreigners at the mines.

On the night of the 26th inst., a party of armed Chinos, some 200, attacked an American camp at the Calaveras diggings, consisting of about twenty persons; three Americans were killed and three others severely wounded, and some sixteen taken prisoners. The Chinos said they were acting under orders from the authorities, and they took the wounded men and prisoners in the direction of Stockton, not even allowing the wounds of the unfortunate men to be dressed.

News of the affair had reached Stockton, causing much excitement, and an armed party of some twelve Americans had started in pursuit of the offenders, and it was supposed that many more would follow. Our informant in whom we have the greatest confidence, is apprehensive that this outrage will be the signal for a general outbreak between the Americans and foreigners in the mines. We confess we are not without the same fears, though we trust the Americans will only visit punishment on the real offenders.

Notice to Delinquent Subscribers.

PERSONS indebted by Promissory Notes or Book Accounts, for Subscriptions or balances of Subscriptions to the first Series of THE EXAMINER Newspaper, up to the 27th of February 1849,—or for advertisements published in the same,—are hereby finally notified, that if payment be not made to the Subscriber on or before the first of April next, an assignment of the whole will be given to an Attorney.

EDWARD WHELAN,
Charlottetown, March 2, 1850.

Benevolent Irish Society.

THE Twenty-fifth ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society will be held at the Society's Room, (residence of the Secretary), on MONDAY Evening the 11th instant, at 7 o'clock. A full attendance of members is requested.

EDWARD KICKHAM,
March 2, 1850. Secretary