

gration officers, having on board 123 steerage passengers' families, and six cabin passengers; her crew, including master and officers, numbering fifty-four. She passed through the Downs on the 6th Nov., and progressed on her voyage, although somewhat tardily, and on the 15th of March she was spoken with in lat. 15 S., and long. 52 W., a considerable distance southward of the Cape. Since then not the least tidings have been heard of the ship, or of any of her numerous passengers. She has already been posted as a missing ship, and the principal underwriters have paid the insurance effected with them on ship and freight. It has been stated that she was laden with railway iron, but that turns out to be incorrect.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., OCTOBER 11, 1858.  
THE PUBLIC FINANCES.

THE state of the public finances has again been made the subject of a leading article in the *Islander*, which is unparalleled for wilful and flagrant misrepresentation. We have frequently felt it our duty to correct the misstatements of our contemporary in reference to the public debt and expenditure; but though we have convinced every impartial and intelligent reader of his mendacity in this line, and silenced him for a time, the editor of the *Islander* returns to the subject to fabricate new falsehoods as soon as he thinks his old ones are forgotten. If he would only practise some uniformity in his misrepresentation, and repeat the old lies with all their attendant nonsense, there would be no necessity for our occupying the attention of our readers by referring to them more than once; but the old charlatan shakes up his budget every time he seeks to impose on the credulity of his readers, and at each succeeding shake or turn pretends to reveal something more astounding than that which awaited on his previous performances. In his last appearance he has represented the public debt considerably greater in amount on the 31st January last than it was according to his previous statements. We are now told that the debt of the Colony amounted at the time mentioned to the enormous sum of £57,240 0s. 0d., which is nearly double the sum it ever attained in the worst of times. He makes up this sum in the following manner:—

Warrants,.....	£30,594 0 0
Debitures,.....	20,550 0 0
Balance due on Worrell Estate,.....	6,100 0 0
	£57,244 0 0

We are surprised that the *Islander* did not swell this amount by the addition of the £11,500 Treasury notes. He passes over the important fact, that there were Bonds in the Treasurer's and Attorney General's hands at the same time to the amount of £28,223 16s. 2d.—besides cash to the amount of £4,550 1s. 4d.—making altogether the sum of £32,773 17s. 7d., as a trifling set off against the £31,500 in Treasury Warrants then about. The *Islander* knows that these assets were fully acknowledged by the Opposition in the House last Session, and are credited to the Government in the report submitted, on the 30th March, by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, as an amendment to the report of the Committee on Public Accounts. Then with respect to the second item in the *Islander's* fallacious statement, viz: "Debitures, £20,550 0s. 0d." we have to remark, that it is not shown for what purpose these debitures were issued, but our readers are well aware that this charge was incurred for the purchase of the Worrell Estate. Against this charge there were, at the time mentioned, monies the payment of which was secured on the very land for which the debitures were issued to the amount of £15,000, according to Mr. Haviland's statement as before referred to, and that there were besides unsold lands to the extent of 45,000 acres. Mr. Haviland admitted in debate, (see his speech in the House on Wednesday, 31st March), that it would not be fair to charge as an item of public debt the £20,550 for debitures without giving the Colony credit for the amount secured on land sales and for the land unsold; but his opinion was, that neither the debt nor credit transactions in reference to the purchase of the Worrell Estate should appear in the public accounts until the debitures, issued for a stated period, should be actually paid off.

With respect to the third item quoted by the *Islander*, viz: "Balance due on Worrell Estate, £6,100 0s. 0d.," we have only to remark, that the vendors of the Estate themselves don't claim that amount, and that when the affair shall have been settled, it will be seen that not much more than one-third of it is due to them.

The *Islander*, as if ashamed of its monstrous falsehood in stating the public debt to amount to £57,240 0s. 0d., says that "the Government partizans" "allege" that there are assets "to the amount of £32,773," which will reduce the debt, bearing interest, to about £24,000. Now, the "Government partizans" do not admit that the debt of the Colony, bearing interest, amounts to anything of the kind; and the amount of assets referred to is not merely claimed by the "Government partizans," but it was frankly acknowledged by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, as leader of the Opposition, as well in his speeches as in his amendment to the Committee's Report on Public Accounts, that the Government was entitled to credit for cash and bonds to the amount of £32,773 17s. 7d., which, according to his view of the case, would leave the debt of the Colony to amount to no more than £29,870 4s. 3d., and taking from this sum £11,500 Treasury Notes, which bear no interest, would reduce the actual debt of the Colony to the small sum of £18,370 4s. 3d. But the "Government partizans" (we thank thee, Jew, for teaching us that word), claim as an offset against the above £18,370 4s. 3d., securities on land sales, as before referred to, to the amount of £15,000, acknowledged to be due to the Government by the leader of the Opposition at the time he prepared his statement of the Public Accounts, and which would reduce the debt bearing interest to the small amount of £3,370 4s. 3d., against which the "Government partizans" place as a further offset 45,000 acres of land on the Worrell Estate, and a very considerable tract of the Lot 11 property. When the editor of the *Islander* again attempts to misrepresent the views of the "Government partizans" with respect to the public accounts, we hope our readers will bear these facts in their remembrance.

There are several other misstatements in the article under consideration which we cannot notice at present for want of space.

It is reported in town that several American fishing vessels were driven ashore between the North Cape and the entrance of Richmond Bay, in the heavy gale on Saturday night, the 21st inst.; and that one vessel was driven on shore at the west side of the North Cape, and all hands on board perished.—15

A GRADUATE OF A SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY AGAIN!

The sanctified scribbler who flourished some months ago in the Opposition Press, pompously styling himself "a Graduate of a Scottish University," has again presented himself, smeared with printer's ink, for the amusement of that small portion of the public whose attention can be attracted by his fanatical ravings. He seems to have become sensible of his former folly when addressing His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for, having delivered himself of his late rant, he cannily abstained from the labour of preparing a copy of it as a contribution to the waste paper-box of the Secretary's Office. But the "Graduate" of the un-English University does not appear to have grown wiser or better in any other respect after his long repose from epistolary labours, for his temper seems to be quite as sour as when he first appeared in print the self-appointed champion of the political parsons; and his performance of clerical duties has evidently not impressed him with a higher regard for the eighth commandment. His late performance in the newspaper line is an angry remonstrance addressed to the Lieutenant Governor—who will, no doubt, be spared the trouble of its perusal, from the fact of its being confined to the columns of a paper which His Excellency, we believe, is not in the practice of reading—against a letter which appeared in the *Examiner* some months ago from the Hon. Mr. Coles. The latter gentleman is accused of having made several false statements in the letter referred to, but the "Graduate" merely says that such and such things are false, without producing a particle of proof in support of his denials. Indeed, it is clear that if he could he would gladly rebut Mr. Coles's statements, for they seem to have established an ugly raw in the mind of his clerical opponent.

Amongst other stuff, the "Graduate" informs His Excellency that it is *their* intention—(meaning, we suppose, himself and his brother political parsons) to attack the Government from other "points" than those whence they have been hurling their poisoned but futile arrows. The new "points" have not been designated by this pious and sweet-tempered Graduate, but we may infer from the style and spirit of his second letter that they are all to be comprised in personal abuse of the Lieut. Governor, because he will not destroy the constitution of the country and govern it at the behest and for the advantage of a defeated and disappointed faction. Forced to adopt the conclusion which every intelligent man in the Island has long since arrived at, that the Government will be sustained by a majority in the new House, the political Graduate of Belfast recommends that the minority of the electors should petition some authority or other for the abolition of our local institutions and the annexation of the Colony to another Provincial Government. This mode of repairing a political defeat has not the small merit of originality. It has been the cry of the Tories, lay and clerical, for the last seven or eight years, whenever they found themselves worsted in an election contest, that they would, should or might petition the Parliament of Great Britain to destroy what they had failed to destroy themselves after all their attempts—the inestimable boon of self-government. We hope the political parson will speedily betake himself to his new employment. We want some new excitement, and some fresh amusement for our long winter evenings; for, duly sensible of the mirth he has afforded us by his recent antics in the political arena, we don't know any man who is capable of furnishing more food for laughter than the "Graduate of a Scottish University;" and we have no doubt the cause of religion may be advanced if he will give us, in the way he proposes, a few additional proofs of his unfitness for the office of a Christian minister.

Passing over many impertinent allusions to ourselves and others—passing aside even false and calumnious assertions, to refute which would be only imparting to them a factitious importance, but which nevertheless prove the author of them to be a person of exceedingly loose principles, and unfit for the sacred calling into which some freak of fortune has thrown him—we shall present our readers with a few specimens of the peculiar style of composition adopted by this conceited graduate of an unknown Scottish University, who affects to be shocked at the defective literary attainments of others. In proof, however, of the reckless manner in which he scatters his libels broadcast, we shall give one instance. He says that the editor of the *People's Journal* has "neither character, property, nor religion,"—and immediately after admits that he does not know who the person is whom he thus calumniates!—Referring to Mr. Coles's letter, to which his was intended as a reply, he says:—"As regards a specimen of English composition, this letter deserves to be sent to the British Minister for the Colonies," &c. We were not aware, indeed, that there was any other than a "British Minister for the Colonies," but we should like to know the name of that excellent University in which our clerical friend graduated; for if we did, we should be tempted to favour its directors with a copy of his letter, and ask why such an empty and pretentious blockhead should be allowed to disgrace the character of any respectable institution by claiming to be a graduate of it? In the first passage we shall quote, the writer pretends to discover a leaning towards Catholicism in the conduct of Mr. Coles, because that gentleman does not happen to be a gloomy and intolerant bigot like himself; and it will be observed that female innocence is not secure against his rude and unmannerly touch:—

"Nor can we discover, since he considers his 'fair ones' can obtain the most refined polish at the Nunnery, why their father cannot obtain the training most suited to his taste, under the guardians of the same instruction, unless he hangs between the two for Jesuitical purposes, that he may the more successfully bait the more calm Protestants."

"Unless he hangs between the two." What "two"? It is a pity the learned graduate did not hang somewhere before we were called upon to put him in the pillory of journalism for his impudence and slanders.

"Never were the entire body of the true-hearted Episcopalians and Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists—ever of one mind in reference to the sacredness of the infallible rule of faith and practice—more determined to prove themselves the worthy descendants of our noble ancestors, who did not count their lives too dear to secure imperishable privileges to their posterity."

We have a faint idea of the meaning of the words italicised, and that is all.

"Let not then your first minister think that he can drive sensible and intelligent men from the great interests at stake by shouting 'political parsons' and 'Tories,' and such like, which sums up the amount of his logic."

"Such like"! The learned "graduate" has evidently plagiarised this phrase from one of our town-criers, who, in enumerating for sale various articles of merchandise, invariably concludes his catalogue with the words, "and such like."

What can be meant by disbanding Her Majesty's soldiers from this Colony, and immediately thereafter seeking, by false

representations to the home Government, to raise a body of armed men, to be the menials of your Government, and that, too, at the expense of the Colony?"

Apart from the blundering manner in which the above short sentence is expressed, it contains just three falsehoods—nearly one for every line. Her Majesty's soldiers were not "disbanded" from this Colony nor in this Colony, either by the Lieut. Governor or by any body else,—they were withdrawn before His Excellency came here. No "false representations" were made to the home Government "to raise a body of armed men;" nor was the force sought to be organized ever intended to be the menials of any government.

"What was the object of your Excellency in calling on a trusty person in this city, because adverse to your Government, to surrender the arms entrusted to him by Her Majesty for his Militia-men? And what can be the cause of your Excellency declining, at the request of the Mayor, to refuse to make suitable provisions for the maintenance of the peace, at the late public meeting, though the Editor of the Government sought to collect an excited mob, and succeeded in doing so, to that extent that those for whom the meeting was especially called, had, for the sake of peace, to retire from the platform to which they were entitled?"

There is an amusing jumble of nonsense in the preceding extract. The letter of "a Graduate," &c. &c. is dated at the "Manse, Belfast," and the writer says His Excellency called on a certain "trusty person in this city." What city? The city of Belfast? but His Excellency called upon no person for the object above mentioned. With respect to the Mayor's application to the Governor, the information is new to us that His Excellency declined to refuse compliance with the Mayor's request. We thought he did refuse it. "The Editor of the Government" sounds magnificently large. We know something about the editors of the several papers in town, but the "editor of the Government" is a new officer with whom we have not the honor of acquaintance.—Those for whom the meeting was especially called! We were under the impression that the meeting was called to ascertain the opinions of the whole electors of Queen's County with respect to certain Government proceedings; and if one portion of them ran off to make room for another, the act must be attributed to their cowardice, or folly, or both.

"And now that the ordinary means of protection has been sent from the country, it was but right that they should appear in the city as a constabulary of peace, in a case of imminent emergency, since this was refused between your Excellency, George Coles, and the Sheriff?"

The above almost inexplicable passage has reference to the irruption of the Belfasters at the public meeting in August last, and its grammatical construction, as every reader can see, is inimitable. The Belfasters were "the means" of preserving the peace that "has been sent, and they appeared in the city," &c. Yes, and a more stupid looking set could not be gathered from the four quarters of the globe. But what was that which was "refused" between His Excellency, "George Coles, and the Sheriff?" It must have been the "imminent emergency" that was refused, because in a previous passage we are told that the Governor declined to refuse the "constabulary of peace."

It would be worse than waste of time to give any further extracts from this, the most silly, illogical, and trashy letter that ever disgraced the columns of any paper—nearly every sentence of which betrays ignorance of the plainest rules of English Grammar. The "Graduate" would not be honoured with this lengthy notice, only that he has the immeasurable vanity and conceit to think himself a very clever fellow, and that there are other fools in the community who put a little faith in his ridiculous pretensions. We want to check this bad propensity in the unfortunate man; and seeing that he is a Minister of the Gospel, would be glad to make him as useful as it is possible for one of his limited capacity to be. At all events, common sympathy for a wretched specimen of half-demented humanity enjoins that he should be shut up, if he has no bosom friends who will do this kind office for him, and throw all his pens and paper in the fire. He seems, however, to be a bad case of typhobia; and the only way we think he can be drilled into decent silence and obscurity is to let him print away until the journal which may publish his lucubrations shall be universally used for shaving paper; or if the publisher has an eye to business, let him charge the communications as advertisements, and we will be bound that the "Graduate of a Scottish University" has enough of Scotch wisdom in him not to stand that very long.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

No. 4.

In the present article, which we design as the last upon this subject from our pen, for the present at least, we shall point out some of the absurdities which impart a peculiar character to our laws.

When, in previous numbers, we had stated that we were alone in the maintenance of the system, we meant not to convey the idea that imprisonment for debt was not in force in other countries; but that no people would tolerate the peculiar principles which are embodied in our laws, and daily put in practice.

By our laws it is provided that any man owing a debt, exceeding in amount the sum of twenty pounds, can have his personal liberty within the precincts of Charlottetown, its Common and Royalty. A person so situated is not only in a position to remain with and work for the maintenance of his family, but on shewing, to the satisfaction of the Judges of the Supreme Court, that he is worth no property, can compel his creditor to pay him a weekly allowance, varying in amount from four shillings during the summer to five in the winter months; and, after receipt of it for three months, is entitled to be discharged for all time from any limitation to his freedom at the instance of the party who sued him. Now, while "old father antic, the law," looks with such favor on the lordly debtor, whose creditors may be clamorous for thousands, it treats in very different fashion the unfortunate, the necessities of whose family may have compelled him to obtain, it may be, a barrel of flour or a quarter of beef on credit, should he be unable to pay at the time appointed, our just and beautifully consistent law provides the following sensible and humane relief. After prescribing the mode in which the goods of the debtor can be seized and sold under execution, it enacts: "And for want of sufficient goods and chattels whereon to levy, then, and in such case only, the said constable is hereby authorized and required to arrest the body of the debtor, and take him to the common jail in the county wherein he shall be arrested, there to remain, if the amount of levy shall not exceed forty shillings, for the space of two months; and if above forty shillings, and not exceeding three pounds, for the space of three months; and if above three pounds, and not exceeding five pounds, for the space of four months; and if above five pounds, and not exceeding eight pounds, for the space of six months; and if above eight pounds, for the space of eight months, (each of said imprisonments to be computed from the day on which the debtor was first committed); and after any of the said imprisonments, in cases where the debt does not exceed ten pounds, the debtor shall be freed and discharged from such imprisonment, and also altogether from the debt and costs for which it has been taken place; and in cases where the

debt and costs exceed ten pounds, then, after such imprisonment as aforesaid, the debtor shall be freed and discharged therefrom, and from ten pounds of the debt for which such imprisonment has been taken place; but nevertheless the goods and chattels of such debtor, whether taken or acquired after his discharge from imprisonment, shall still remain liable to be taken in execution for the balance or surplus of the debt over the sum of ten pounds so discharged as aforesaid, and costs; and the plaintiff, in any such last mentioned case, shall be entitled, at any time thereafter, to take out execution or alias execution, against the goods and chattels of the defendant, for the amount of such balance or surplus and costs, so always that the person of any such debtor or defendant so having suffered eight months' imprisonment as aforesaid, shall be freed and discharged from arrest upon the judgment under which he has suffered imprisonment, or in any action or proceeding upon such judgment."

Now, on what principle can the distinction between the cases of the debtor of a large sum, and him who owes but a trifle, be justified? Surely, if debt is to be treated criminally, the greater the amount of debt the greater should be the punishment; but this law recognizes the fact of indebtedness to a trifling amount as a crime, *nulla virtute redemptum*, and extends its protectingegis over him whose misfortune or dishonesty may have involved hundreds in a common ruin. It is such as though it were enacted that a pickpocket should be executed, and a murderer should be sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

But the absurdity does not stop here. The law, as we have quoted it, refers to cases tried and decided in the respective Courts of Commissioners for the recovery of Small Debts. The Supreme Court has concurrent jurisdiction with those Courts in all cases involving amounts over eight pounds; and on all executions issued from it in such cases the defendant has the privilege of the limits and his claim for weekly support.

We shall be truly thankful to any one—judge, lawyer or layman—to furnish us with a reason why the same facts should involve such different consequences, according to the tribunal before which they may be disclosed; and would like to be informed of the grounds on which the inferior court has the power of inflicting a heavier punishment for that which the supreme tribunal can make a cause of benefit to the same individual. We trust that the admirable device of enabling a debtor to pay a debt absolutely by a tariff on his period of incarceration—and that only to the amount of ten pounds—will not pass unobserved by our readers, who will not unnaturally wish to know what magic exists in the particular amount which prevents the application of the principle to eleven or twenty pounds.

We shall now bring our reflections on imprisonment for debt to a close, hoping that the ideas we have hurriedly thrown out may induce such modification of the present law as, while it will protect the just rights of the creditor—which at present are daily evaded—will afford that protection to the honest debtor which will be at once the best security to the creditor that he will be paid, and the most efficient means of enabling his debtor to discharge his obligation cheerfully and in full. That no difficulty exists in providing such remedy, the legislation of the Mother Country, the greater part of Continental Europe, the United States, and the neighboring Colonies, affords abundant proof, and we have but to select from their different codes those portions which we may think best adapted to the circumstances of our people.

THE MISSING MONEY LETTER.

NOTWITHSTANDING the publication of the letter from the Postmaster at St. John, which appeared in our columns last week, fully accounting for the safe arrival of the missing Mail of the 10th August, there are persons in our midst who have been found malicious enough to insinuate that the money letter enclosed in that mail was still missing. Now as that letter was registered, it was easy for the Postmaster to ascertain whether it reached its destination or not; and in order to set all doubt at rest, Mr. Davies wrote to the Postmaster General, enquiring if the letter had been received at St. John, and received the following answer:—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, Fredericton, Oct. 1, 1858.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Postmaster General, in answer to your letter of the 28th ult., to inform you that the Registered Letter, No. 685, addressed to Messrs. Spencer, Vils & Co., Bankers, 18 Congress Street, Boston, U. S., was received at St. John, and forwarded to its destination.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

"F. B. MITCHELLSON.

Ch. Town, P. E. I."

We suppose the gossiping Snavlers will set their wits to work to fabricate a new tale about something else, now that their Post Office hobby for the last month has been ridden to death.

"Oh I for a Forty Parson-power to chaunt Thy praise, Hypocrisy."—Bacon.

Were it not at the foot of a very vulgar letter published in last week's *Islander*, the writer of which styles himself "Graduate of a Scottish University, and ordained Minister of the Church of Scotland," &c, we should have fancied the hero of it to have been a tailor, and its unity would have been better preserved by dividing it into nine parts. Its machinery would then have been better conducted by Atropos, who holds the fatal shears, and Vertumnus, the god of cabbage; and the victim of Michaelmas day, instead of the bird of Minerva, invoked to shed a quill from its pinion, and inspire the imagination of the writer. One remarkable coincidence between the purring writers of his nation and calling is, the common hypocrisy and cant with which they set themselves up for moralists and saints whenever they are about to be particularly scandalous. We could mention certain *Mawworms* who never venture upon an indecent or abusive article without a preface of pretended horror at the irreligion, indecorum, and personality of some unacceptable contemporary. From the phraseology and grammar displayed in Mr. Alexander McKay's most Christian letter, we infer that if he graduated in Scotland at all, it must have been in Edinburgh, at the University of the *Cadies*, although we sincerely think that even those blackguards would be ashamed of their chum.

We have reason to believe that the reverend compilers of the Sanctified Press were ashamed of, and refused to publish Mr. Alexander McKay's letter, and that he had great difficulty in persuading the Editor of the *Islander* to do so, and was very nearly being compelled to explain the still unsolved problem, for a solution of the old metaphysical crux of the jack ass between two bundles (of types) of hay. We observe that the Rev. Alexander McKay, Graduate of a Scottish University, is blessed in the possession of a perfect knowledge of Latin and the Classics, but he should correct the proof-sheet of his productions in that language, and not allow of two errors in his only two quotations, typographical errors no doubt, but his *onus probande* does not read classically, nor does the quotation *Pro Curia inversique mires*, display the grammarian. His letter proves him to be a literary phenomenon! a genius of the first order! a prodigy, and not one bit of a political parson; and if he be not grievously mistaken, he must have burst his bonds from some Dumfries stone-cutter's establishment, and set himself to work with his head instead of his hands, for the especial benefit and respect-