Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT ADDRESS.

(Debate continued.)

Hon. Mr. COLES—Mr. Chairman, I have listened to a considerable amount of eloquence from the hon. member who has just sat down, but, Sir, I never heard more humbug in an equal space of time. As to the allegation, that the statement sent to England was not intended for general publicity here, he knows well enough that it would have been brought down to this House, and published in the usual manner. The public accounts were before the House of Assembly in 1857, and if they were not correctly made out, if they misrepresented our financial position, why, I ask, was not the error then pointed out and corrected? The fact is, Sir, that the auditors only gave credit for what funds they found in the Treasury; and although they charged the Island with £18,000 of debentures, they gave no credit for the lands, for the purchase of which those debentures had been given. Suppose the case of a merchant wishing to ascertain the state of his affairs, would he consider himself worth only the amount of cash in his till, without taking into account the goods upon his shelves? Could a man purchasing a farm, on which he gives a mortgage of £500, be fairly said to be in debt to that amount, without being credited with the value of the farm? Sir, if the late Government, in making up the financial statement, to which the hon. member referred at such length, had estimated their assets at too high a figure, why did not their opponents set them right? They could not deny the correctness of the document, and I appeal to the auditors to state whether there was any attempt at concealment or mystification. That statement has been before the country for two years, and is to be found in our journals. Surely, if it merited the character the hon. member has given it, we would have heard it before this time. Allusion was made to the settlers on the Worrell Estate, and the hon. member insinuated that the late Government had manifested a spirit of favouritism and undue lenity to parties whose payments were in arrear, and he said that they had refused to pay. Now, Sir, I deny that any of them refused to pay the instalments, but the Government caused notice to be given in the Gazette, requiring the parties to pay the amounts due by them respectively. This course was preferable to handing them over to the Attorney General, and entailing on the poor people the heavy expenses which such a proceeding would necessarily involve. The hon. member well knows that, if any of them refused to pay, they could be compelled to do so. But those people are well aware that the late Government conferred great benefits on them, and they are quite willing to pay their instalments, but they have had unusual difficulties to contend with during the past season. The early setting in of winter prevented the vessels, on board of which they had shipped their produce, from proceeding to sea, and a large portion of their cargoes has consequently been destroyed, and it would be cruel injustice, under these circumstances, to send the Sheriff to their homes. But, Sir, to revert to the alleged misrepresentation, I ask the members of the Government if the comparative statements of the revenue for eight years, ending in 1856, is not correct? If there had been any intention to deceive, wou'd the late Government have sent such a document? Why, Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Mr. Haviland, when the public accounts for 1856 were before the House—and he was Chairman of the Committee to examine and report upon them—stated in his place that the £18,000 of debentures for the Worrell Estete should not have appeared in the public accounts, until the affairs of the Estate had been wound up. Such declaration, made by a prominent opponent of the late Government, reflects great credit on that gentleman, and is a sufficient answer to the sophistry of the hon. member, Mr. Longworth. If the accounts did not charge the £18,000, we would claim no credit for the land. I trus', Sir, that the Committee is now convinced of the correctness of the statements sent home. As to the final result of the operations connected with the management and disposal of the Worrell Estate, I do not say that it will realize the exact amount paid for it;—it may fetch something more or less, accordingly as it is treated. Perhaps the present Government may mismanage it, and it is probable that they will.

Mr. COOPER—I consider that the Loan Bill has been made use of as a bugbear to frighten the people. The amount was not to be repaid for 20 years, and I am decidedly of opinion that repayment would not be required from the Island. Lord Stanley's admission of the injustice with which the people of the Colony had been treated, is sufficient to justify the Government in endeavouring to bring the money into the country, and affords good reason for the belief that we would never be called upon to repay it.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—Had I been in the House when the paragraph before the Committee was read, Mr. Charman, I would have submitted an amendment, which I will now read:—

It is likewise with surprise we learn that it is not the intention of Her Majesty's present Government to propose to the Imperial Parliament the guaranteed Loan contemplated for this Island. This measure was adopted at the suggestion, and with the concurrence, of a late Colonial Minister, (experienced in Colonial affairs), and advocated in the House of Commons by his successor, the Right Hon. Lord Stanley,—thus pledging the faith of the Crown to assist the local Legislature and Government to mature a measure so well calculated to allay public discontent and promote the welfare of the people. The Secretary of State's Despatches on this subject will receive our earnest deliberations.

I will not occupy much of the time of the Committee at present, as it is near the hour for adjournment; but I must say that there is ample reason for the expression of surprise at the withdrawal of the Bill, in view of all the correspondence on the subject. The Despatch of Mr. Labouchere, a statesman who had devoted more time and attention to Colonial affairs than to any other branch of the public service of his country, who, years ago, held a distinguished position in Canada under the late lamented Lord Durham, certainly gave assurance that the proposed guarantee would be accorded. That Despatch was as follows:—

"Upon entering on the duties which Her Majesty has been pleased to confide to me, I could not avoid giving my most serious attention to the correspondence which has recently taken place with regard to two Acts of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, to which Her Majesty's Government were unable to advise Her Majesty to give her assent.

"I have, at the same time, found it necessary to review the series of transactions, extending over a long period of years, which are marked by the continued effort of a large portion of the resident inhabitants of the Island, either to abolish altogether, or materially to curtail, the rights of the owners of landed property.

"I will not now repeat arguments which have been urged on various occasions by my predecessors, it will be sufficient for me to express my decided opinion, that, whatever character may properly attach to the circumstances connected with the original grants, which have been often employed against the maintenance of the rights of the proprietors, they could not, with justice, be used to defeat the rights of the present owners, who have acquired their property by inheritance, by family settlements, or for valuable consideration.

"Seeing, therefore, that the rights of the proprietors could not be sacrificed without manifest injustice, I feel that it will be my duty steadily to resist, by all means in my power, measures similar in their character to those which were recently under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

"I desire, however, at the same time, to assure you that it was with much regret that Her Majesty's advisers felt themselves constrained to oppose the wishes of the people of Prince Edward Island, expressed through their representatives, and that it is my earnest wish to be spared the necessity of authoritative interference in regard to matters affecting the internal administration of their affairs

"With regard to the main object which has been frequently proposed by a large portion of the inhabitants, namely, that some means may be provided by which a tenant holding under a lease may arrive at the position of fee-simple proprietor, I am anxious to facilitate such a change, provided that it be effected without injustice to the proprietors.

"There are but two ways in which such a change could be effected. The first is the usual and natural one of purchase and sale between the tenant and the owner, and no reason appears as yet to have been stated, why, if the tenants offer to the landowners the full value of the right and interest of the landowner, sales and purchases cannot be effected. It would seem probable, that at all events, in the cases of non-resident owners, such fair offers would generally be accepted, and as the lands are usually let upon leases of extraordinary length, and at a small annual rent, there can, it would seem, be but few tenants who could not find the means of offering a fair price for buying up the annual rent of their holdings.

"The other method would be, that the Government of the island should treat with such of the landowners as might be willing to sell, and that the State, thus becoming possessed of the fee-simple of such lands as might thus be sold, should be entitled to afford greater facilities for converting the tenants into freeholders than the landlords themselves might feel an interest in doing.

"An arrangement of this kind could, probably, not be made without a loan to a considerable amount to be raised by the island Government, the interest thereof to be charged upon the revenues of the island. But Her Majesty's Government would not be indisposed to take into consideration of this kind which you might submit to them, showing ...st of such loan could locally be provided for, and what arrangements would be proposed as to the manner of disposing of the lands of which the fee-simple might be bought up.

"I shall be happy to receive from you, in the meantime, any suggestions or information which may tend to promote the satisfactory settlement of this difficult and protracted controversy."

The Bill prepared in accordance with the suggestions of the despatch was before the House of Commons for a portion of two years, and when introduced by Lord Stanley, the measure was characterized as matter of justice, not of favor. He admitted that serious evils had been inflicted on the Colony by the manner in which the lands had been disposed of, without consideration or regard to the future interests of the inhabitants. There was then every prospect that the measure would be carried out; and now that it has been frustrated, no definite reason is assigned by the present Colonial Minister. The following is the language of the Despatch communicating the abandonment of the Bill:—

"With reference to my Despatch of September last, acquainting you that I had communicated the correspondence, respecting the proposed Loan of £100,000 to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, I have now to acquaint you that in the present state of the finances of the Colony, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be hopeless to attempt to obtain a guarantee from the House of Commons.

"The whole question, however, of the Land tenures, together with that of the Fishery Reserves, is engaging my most anxious attention; and it would give me unfeigned pleasure to receive such suggestions for the amicable settlement of these differences as could be accepted by the Imperial Government.

"It has occurred to me that if, within the Island, an impartial Committee could be formed, composed of members fairly representing the interests of Landlord and Tenant, they might devise modes of settlement consistent with what, in this Country, are considered the legitimate rights of property, and which would obtain the concurrence of both parties."

Now, Sir, we have heard a good deal about Despatches, and my hon. friend, Mr. Coles, quoted some observations of the hon. Mr. Palmer in 1855, ridiculing the idea of respecting such state papers. With reference to this one, I will not pay so poor a compliment to the Minister whose signature it bears, as to suppose for a moment that it is his composition. It bears conclusive evidence of being the effusion of some understrapper in the Colonial Office, who knows as much about the Island as I know of him. But, Sir, where, in this Despatch, does the Government find aught to justify the charges of deception and misrepresentation which they have so lavishly preferred against their predecessors? Does the Colonial Minister say that he was deceived? Nothing of the kind is alleged. How did such an idea first dawn upon his mind? Where are the documents to prove that the statement submitted to the Lieut. Governor by his late Council, and forwarded to the Colonial Office, was erroneous? Sir, when hon. members on the other side of the House affect surprise that my hon. friend, Mr. Coles, should have charged the loss of the Bill to a combination of proprietors and conservatives, as though such combination had never existed—I ask, did they not unite in opposition to the one-ninth Bill, and various other measures of public utility and benefit? If the Colonial Minister did not place reliance upon the official statement transmitted to him, he must have had some other information which instilled the suspicion into his mind. From what source, then, did such intelligence emanate? From whom but those whose interests would be most affected by the Bill? A considerable amount of virtuous indignation has been expressed by some hon. members, at the allegation that the loss of the Bill involved a breach of faith on the part of the Imperial Government. I say, Sir, that a more gross breach of faith was never perpetrated, and the documents I have referred to fully warrant the assertion. The working of the Worrell Estate has been made the subject of a great deal of harmless abuse of the late Government; but, Sir, where is the proof that any loss has been, or will be, sustained from that property? The affairs of that Estate are not yet closed.

Hon. Mr. YEO—No, and never will be. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—Perhaps they may be brought to a close for the benefit of a certain gentleman who prefers a claim of some £6000 against it—when the lands shall have been sold at the upset price of even four shillings per acre, it will be proved that the property has been self-sustaining:—apart from that consideration, whoever visits that estate will perceive that the increased prosperity and comfort of the settlers afford gratifying evidence of the benefits the action of the late Government has conferred upon them. There is no part of the Island where the situation of the people has so much improved; formerly, they were but tenants at will, without leases from Mr. Worrell, the prices charged for the purchase of land were extravagantly high, ranging from 40s. to 60s. per acre, and at such rates it was almost a favour to be allowed to purchase. Under the management of the Trustees, the condition of the tenants was something better, but they were charged highly for their leases, and the arrears of rent were secured by Bonds and Warrants. Contrast their present situation with what it was at the period to which I have referred; the traveller now sees new and comfortable dwellings, extensive clearings, good and substantial fencing, and in fact every indication of increasing prosperity. As to the other property purchased by the late Government, Lot 11, it has not been asserted that any loss will accrue to the public from that source—on the contrary, I believe there will be a small surplus resulting from it.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—Mr. Chairman, notwithstanding the doleful predictions concerning the Worrel Estate, I am happy to find that no one expresses any fear of a loss ensuing from Lot 11. There can be no doubt that the present Government would have included that property in their budget of grievances, if they could have found anything to complain of in connection with that purchase. The Worrel Estate, it must be borne in mind, was very peculiarly situated, the tenants had been very badly treated, and it is hardly fair for hon. members to draw general conclusions, as to the policy of the Government in purchasing other properties, from the condition of one Estate, which has no parallel in the Island. Instead of taking the affairs of that property, as making a case against the late Government, I will suppose that Government had purchased a well-managed Estate, for instance the Selkirk or Seymour properties, to show the motives which induce some hon. members to denounce the Loan Bill. By that and the Land Purchase Bill, it was never intended that the Government should derive a profit from the sales of the land; the purchasers would obtain their lands at such prices as would barely cover the costs and expenses of management. But, sir, I ask the hon. member, Mr. Douse, if while he can go to England, and another gentleman, Mr. Pope, can repair to the United States, and buy large tracts of land at 4s. or 5s. per acre, they would resell them to the people at the rates at which the Government would ask? No, sir, their object is to make money for themselves and not to benefit the tenantry. They can get their 20s. sterling an acre, and more than that; aye, as much as 50 or 60 shillings. That is the reason of such strenuous opposition, for if the Loan had been obtained, their opportunities of speculation and the profitable agencies would cease, and they would soon find that, like Othello's, their occupation would be gone. The real motive of much of the opposition to the Loan Bill, is to be found in the desire of certain parties to keep the management of the lands in their own hands, and perpetuate the present cursed monopoly, for really it deserves no better designation. They would fain keep the people in a state of serfdom, chain them down to the condition of mere hewers of wood and drawers of water, as was charitably suggested in a certain newspaper. As to the fear of general taxation, on account of the purchase of lands by Government, it will be time enough to complain when the evils so confidently anticipated shall be experienced. For myself, I can only say that I have no idea that such a result will occur; but even if it should take place, a loss of £15,000 or £20,000 would be more than compensated, by the conversion of tenants into freeholders--by the elevation of slaves to the position of freemen. The improvement of one class of the community acts with beneficial effect upon all; the poorer a people, the less their spirit and energy, raise them in their social position, and you raise them in their own estimation, they feel an ambition which before they knew not, and redoubled energy is infused into their industry. The assertion that the Bill was introduced in 1856 as a mere electioneering manœuvre is not worthy of notice; the same cry was raised by the same parties, in their opposition to the Rent Roll Bill, One-ninth Bill, &c. and the other important measures introduced by the Liberal party.

The following paragraph having been read by the Chairman,—

"It is satisfactory to know that the question of the Land Tenures and Fishery Reserves is engaging the attention of the Secretary of State, and so soon as the documents containing his suggestions for facilitating the equitable adjustment of the question, shall be laid before us, we beg to assure your Excellency, that we will be prepared to give that careful consideration to the subject, which its grave importance entitles it to"—

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN said,—Mr. Chairman, the subjects referred to in the paragraph which you have just read are of great importance to the people of the Island. They were prominent topics in the addresses to the different constituencies previously to the late elections, and at every meeting we heard that when the present Government came into power they would be finally and satisfactorily settled. The power of doing so is now in their hands, and it is their duty to dispose of them in such a way as to benefit the Tenantry. I trust they will do so, and I can assure them, Sir, that any measure which they may introduce, calculated to effect that object, shall receive my cordial support. In saying this, I do not wish to be understood as intending to separate from the party with which I am, and have been connected. We tried different measures to redress the evils so long and so seriously experienced, and these measures were not acceeded to by the Imperial Government; and now that our opponents have succeeded to the Government, I feel it my duty to support any good measure on the subject of the Land question which they may introduce. With reference to the observations of the hon. member, Mr. Longworth, on that bone of contention, the Worrell Estate, we all know the use which the present majority have made of it—to damage the minority before the people. We have heard that the boon conferred upon the settlers on that Estate would be injurious, nay, ruinous, to the country—that the property, so far from being self-sustaining, would not pay its working expenses, and statements to that effect have been made by the hon. member in this debate. Now, Sir, although up to the present time the property may not have realized as much as, at one time, we may have expected, yet it is not to be supposed that the result to the country will be such as has been predicted. It should be recollected that, in the purchase of that Estate, the late Government were anticipated by the intervention of middlemen, in consequence of which they had to pay a great deal more than they otherwise would. They were anxious to obtain it as cheap as possible; but while communications from them, on the subject of the purchase, were suppressed in England, parties went from the Island and bought the property for the purpose of re-selling to the Government, which they did at a profit of some thousands. I do not blame those parties for so doing, they had an undoubted right to make the best bargain they could, but I mention these circumstances to shew the reason why the late Government had to pay so much for the Estate, which was the only one offered to them. As to what may be the ultimate result, when the affairs of that Estate shall be finally closed, I do not say, but we know that £16,000 are secured by bonds, as good as any in the Treasury. These Bonds have been given for the purchase monies of which the first instalments have been paid, and the remaining amounts, besides the personal security of the purchasers, are a first charge upon the lands themselves. The hon. member has also referred, at considerable length, to the general state of our finances, and without much trouble or loss of time, I shall show the Committee what our position, as regards the public debt really is:

On the 31st January, 1858, there were—			
Warrants on the Treasury, unpaid,		£30,594	1 9½
Treasury notes afloat, or supposed to be,		11,500	0 0
Debentures issued under 16 Vic., Cap. 18,		20,550	0 0
		£62,644	1 9½
To meet this there were—			
Bonds in Treasury,	£25 156 13 3¼		
" in hands of Atty. Gen.	3,067 2 11		
Cash in Treasury,	4 550 1 4¼		
Balance against the Colony,	29,870 4 4		
		£62,644	1 9½
Thus, the actual balance on the 31st January, 1858, was—		£29,870	4 4
To which add the Expenditure up to the close of the financial year—up to 31st January, 1859—		£43,210	2 10
		£73,080	7 2
To meet this amount there is the—			
Revenue of the past year,	£33,292 2 3¾		
Due from Worrell Estate and public lands,	16,000 0 0		
		£49,292	2 3¾
So, our finances were in this state on the 1st January last,—			
	Dr.	£73 080	7 2
	Cr.	49 292	2 3¾
Leaving as the real debt against the Colony,		£23,788	4 10¼

This, Sir, is not quite equal to £70,000—the amount alleged as being due before the late elections,—and of this sum the 30,000, or 40,000 acres of land remaining unsold of the Worrell Estate, in addition to the £16,000 of Bonds secured on the land sold, must be considered as ample security for the cost of the property. The debt, then, is not so serious an affair as the present majority represented it to be, and we shall wait to see the great reductions which they promised to make in the salaries of the public officers. At the public meetings held throughout the country before the late elections, great promises were made to the people on this subject, and the late Government was censured in no measured terms for having fixed the pay of the officials at too high a figure. It was said that all these salaries were to be reduced, in order to meet the falling off in the revenue. I presume now, Sir, that the Government will be prepared to redeem their promises on this subject and the land question, towards the equitable settlement of which I repeat my readiness to give my support.

(To be continued.)

FOR THE EXAMINER.

MY DEAR F——;

Equal to my promise, I present to you through the *Examiner* "Mayflowers."

The delicate gem of the wilderness—the Mayflower—is the favorite of all; the maiden wears it in her bosom—fit emblem of herself; it adorns the drawing-room of the matron; fascinated with its beauty, childhood and riper youth bear away its tiny blossom; and stern man, subdued by its loveliness and personation of innocence, wears it on his brawny bosom. It is prized for the simplicity of its form, the exquisite delicacy of its tints, and sweetness of perfume. It deservedly is the Queen of our Wild Flowers, and the emblem of our country. It "blooms amid the snows."

Continue, my dear F——, to pay your visits to the mossy bed of the starry Mayflower; wear and admire it, for possessing qualities which, being philosophically considered, soften the asperities of the bosom, and refine the feelings; contemplate its simplicity, beauty, and innocence; and thank the Great Parent of Good who rules the seasons, and directs all things, that He has deigned to create and perpetuate the little Mayflower.

W.

MAYFLOWERS.

Kindred of my old and loved acquaintance,
The Flowers of other Mays in other lands!
Welcome as long lost one! home hails again,
Where sorrow wept o'er parted ties and loves.
Unchang'd your smile—your faithfulness unchang'd,—
Ye come in floral charms, as fair of old
Your graceful sisters came in fragrant bloom,
And wooed the school-boy to their flowering homes—
Winning his yielding bosom with their charms,
Whilst admiration swell'd his heart with joy,
Pure as the light pale Cynthia chastely strews
On dew and flower from her supernal throne.
Sweet, powerful, chaste rememberances
Of home once bright with glowing hearts and loves—
Of friends as your unblemish'd bosom pure—
And scenes, your bloom's delicious sweets relume—
Leading the beating bosom fondly back
To days, all flowers, and innocent delights,
Life's budding morn, and tender blooming May,
When every channel of the heart ran joy,
And guileless thought in cherub sweetness reign'd,
Then high hope blooming gem'd the dazzling way,
Love, Ambition, Glory, life's great centres were
Revolving in the burning bounding brain
As the bright future on his axis turn'd,
Then Geizer's lofty brow was climb'd elate,
And youthful ardour gather'd up your charms,
On his proud heights, kiss'd by the west wind's lip,
Or sought your beauteous home in Sherwood's bowers,
With fond companions, attic bosom'd ones,
Who throb for throb to feeling's blissful heart
Gave back the greatful swell of mutual loves.
Or rambling where the sounding Sackville runs
To Bedford's ambient tides and verdant shores,
Spangled with hamlets of the honest poor,
Pull'd your fair forms amongst the silver birch
Fluttering bright foliage in the toying winds,
Beyond the famed Rotunda in decay,
Shatter'd and wreck'd, telling a potent tale,
Of princely hours when round its concave walls
Music's enchantments swell'd for lords of state
And ladies, sylph-like, bathed in beauty's smiles,
While brilliant fetes, allured to pleasure's arms;
And all was gay where ruin riots now,
Greedy to swallow up the pride of man,
And revels in remnants of the regal dome—
That pomp, nor state, nor splendour's gorgeous charms
Could save from stroke of tireless, bribeless Time,
Smiting alike the hut and princely lodge,
Where Royal Edward rout and revel held,
And fashion flaunted in her tinsel pride,
Deeming her scions most refined clay.
Though Art, and Beauty, Pomp and Power decay,
And shrines belov'd the fatal fiat know,
Thy home still stands in nature's ancient fane
The wilderness, in gorgeous vestments clad:
Of foliage bright, and myriad flowerets fair,
And sparkling streams, and joyous singing brooks:
Where 'mongst the woodland boughs the merry birds
Their joyful anthem send up to the sky,
In greatful tribute to Almighty Love;
Such scenes among, with bright-eyed laughing ones
Of Memory's fadeless dye to sit and dream,
Or saunter musingly by mossy mounds,
Or wander free by stream, and grot, and dell—
List'ning the linnet's and the robin's song,
And gentle voices of the gladden'd trees;
Stirr'd by the breathings of the soft west wind,
And gaze on virgin leaves young spring unfolds,
And gather flowers, and blend in offerings chaste,
And glowing garlands weave of queenly May,
For beauty's brow, and bind them blushing there,
While beaming eyes unfold the soften'd soul,
And accents dear in mellow feeling flow
From roseate lips, outglowing summer's sheen.
Are joys the heart athirst would quaff again,
So pure, so chaste, so lovely, more than dear,—
Sweeter than cooling breeze to burning brow,
Or generous water to the parched tongue,
Sweeter than evening's perfume laden breath,
Bearing aroma from the blooming trees,—
Sweeter than flowers the valleys' bosoms bear,—
Than evening chimes,—than tinkling bell a-field,—
Than lambkin's voice, and merry chanticleer,—
Than melody of soft meandering brooks,
And sparkling fountain's song in mossy dell;
Or holy calm on burnish'd mountain's side,
When down the west the smiling day declines,
And sun and sky look gloriously on earth.
Old scenes, ye come and flit in transport by—
The past, the present, mingling in the mind,
And smiles and sighs in swift succession flow,
As beat the pulses of the quicken'd heart.
Those speak of joys, these ask in solemn tone
Home what of thee? Our hearthstone circle where?
Where happy faces and the ones beloved?
Yon wither'd tree by fiery lightening rent,
Throughout its shatter'd trunk replies—Behold!
Those scatter'd leaves befitting answer give—
Speaking with wither'd rustling tongues, of Time's
Mutations, and the wrecking surge of years.
Hail, souvenirs of scenes the heart enfolds!
Pure as thy tints in softest harmony—
Remembrancers of elevated joys—
Embosom'd deep in treasury of the soul—
Unrivall'e ones in Flora's garden wilds,—
Come let me drink your aromatic breath,
And drinking, kiss your spicy gentle lips.
And to my bosom press your lovely forms;
While with the dew-drops on your tender breasts
The azure wept from midnight's solemn founts.
I mingle tears o'er those blotted from life,
O'er hearts of truth beneath the king-cup's bloom;
And down in ocean's fearful dreary deeps,
The faithful souls, the noble, gen'rous band
Who dried the tear and brighter made the smile—
Whose words no mockery nor deception wore—
Whose proffer'd hand was potent feeling's pledge;
No hollow show, no fraud, nor heart belied,
Lurk'd meanly low within the honest palm;
Nor eye averted fled its fellow's gaze;
Nor down dark look, seeming to fear the light,
In frown of conscience and the bosom's taint;
Nor bastard smile; nor spurious silken tongue,
With sovereign quackeries of deception full,
Which loathesome gangrene spread in social halls—
Poison the mind, and drug the victim man—
Deform the forum—soil the market place,
The shopman's counter, and the merchant's desk—
The puffy patriot swell, and fire the tyrant's will—
The senate halls with public frauds imbue,
Till mangled justice bleeding prostrate lies,
And subtly too the sacred pulpit stain,
And mock his office in some Reverend knave.
Oh, hallow'd shades of honor's blood and bloom
Ye, scorn'd, contemn'd, dishonor's ragged sons,
And smiling cheat, and creeping hypocrite,
And man of subterfuge and holy fraud—
And friend of policy whose favor turns
On serving self—his patriotic rule—
And he who lives by calumny and lies,
And base perfidious villian will exalt
To gain foul power, and sacrifice the right,
And all the dark intriguing scum of earth;
Ye shunn'd and pass'd—at lengthen'd distance pass'd—
And high as Pindus peaks enrobed in clouds,
You lived on lofty Truth's great eminence,
And downwards looking from your noble height,
Ye pitied those of foul degenerate clay.
But I have wandered, gentle flowers, from you,
To muse on those who erst with me had roved,
In bounding heart and soul elated brain,
The bowers and flowering wilds of happy home,
And cull'd—how fondly cull'd—thy kindred's bloom,
When life and hope in orient morn rejoiced.
Yet I return unto your verdant shores—
The magic strand, enchantment's thrilling ground—
To pass one hour illumed by feeling's burning lamp,—
One calm and pensive hour with you, dear Flowers,
Who shone so lovely in your early birth,
Array'd in beauty's chaste unfolded charms,—
'Till lurking frosts, and snows, and bitter blast
Breath'd in your bosoms' cores a deadly germ,
And rudely nipp'd your virgin early bloom.
Smote by the ruthless foes, you droop your heads,
Smiling in death, and dying perfume shed
Upon your buried sisters wilding tombs,
And strew your petals over their sweet graves.
Your time concluded, and high purpose served,
Which call'd you into lovely existence,
The hour, the last, the parting moment's here
Embitter'd by the joy your presence gave,
Stirring the fountains of the heart with joy,
And sparkling floods of tender memories,
Elysium days that gem the fervent past,
Away afar in other dearer lands,
Beyond the broad Northumbian deep.
Yet, lingering, pensive, o'er your fallen bloom,
I weep that lovely ones soon pass away—
That tender natures sink in early tombs.
And bid to you with swelling heart adieu,
As I have bidden those belov'd farewell.

WERAND.

Charlottetown, 1st May, 1859.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—This admirable periodical, for April and May, is again on our table, and sustains its well established character as the best conducted and most entertaining monthly publication in America. Professor Holmes (our familiar friend, the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table) continues to embellish its pages with his lively and witty disquisitions, while Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe (authoress of Uncle Tom's Cabin), continues her excellent story of the "Minister's Wooing." On the whole, the contents of the Nos. before us are of the most interesting character.