

# The Examiner.

## AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREEL-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

New Series.

CHARLOTTETOWN, JANUARY 1. 1851.

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### THE OLD YEAR.

With mournful tone I hear thee say,  
"Alas, another year has sped!"  
As if within that circlet lay  
Life's garland dead.

Vain thought! Thy measure is not Time's;  
Nor thus yields life each glowing hue;  
Fair fruit may yield—the tendril climbs,  
And clasps anew.

Time hath mute landmarks of his own;  
They are not such as man may raise;  
Not his the rudely number'd stone  
On life's broad ways.

The record measuring his speed  
Is but a shadow softer spread—  
A browner leaf—a broken reed,  
Or mildew shed.

And if his footfall crush the flower,  
How sweet the spicy perfume springs;  
His mildew stain upon the tower  
A glory brings.

Then let the murmuring voice be still,  
The heart hold fast its treasure bright;  
The heart glows warm when sunbeams  
chill:  
Life hath no night.

### DISPENSANCE.

### THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—  
In your paper of the 25th instant you state, that you have "frequently heard the question put, during the last month or two, What has the Royal Agricultural Society done with the articles designed to be forwarded to the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, to take place in 1851?" and thereupon you intimate your doubts as to this Island being represented at that Exhibition. I am afraid, Sir, your doubts are too well founded, so far as the Society is concerned in the matter; for I have it from the best authority, that the articles alluded to, obtained at so much expense and labour to the farmers and mechanics, and placed at the disposal of the Committee of the Agricultural Society, have been divided amongst the gentlemen farmers who are members of that Committee, they paying the cost and charges. The reason alleged, I understand, for declining to send those products of our Island skill and industry to the great Exhibition is, that they were too insignificant in value and too unimportant in character. But I am inclined to think it was quite a different reason which influenced the Committee. Since the death of their much lamented Patron and Chief, before whom they appeared to be unopposedly solicitous to promote the agricultural interests of the Colony, there has been a manifest lull in the exertions of the Society,—and may be it is that they could not be fished, as Duncan Maclean would say, about forwarding the articles for exhibition; or may be it is, that the rich tubs of butter, the luscious cheeses, the gaudy shawls and scarfs, and well-woven cloths, &c. &c., had too many attractions for the gentlemen of the

Committee to be sent all the way to London.

It may be true enough that the articles were few in number and small in value. But they were such as the Society advertised for, and no doubt the best the Island could afford; if they were not, prizes ought not to have been distributed. Our country is small and unimportant, and its resources scanty—so that nothing very wonderful could be expected from it; yet poor as we are, the Committee of the Agricultural Society should have spared us the disgrace of being the only Colony in America whose place will be a blank at the National Exhibition. I am pretty well assured, that if the Society had never taken the matter in hand, private enterprise would have been stimulated—public meetings called, and plans matured, with the view of forwarding to the Exhibition some of the products of the soil, skill and industry of this little Island, once designated the garden of North America. But the delay has left the public no time for action, and they must submit to be cheated out of their rag of reputation through the negligence, incapacity, or selfishness of the Committee.

You gentlemen of the Press and of the Legislature, who cry lustily for Reform in the Government, should not forget that reform is needed in other places beside the Government; and I would direct your attention particularly to the Royal Agricultural Society, which is so much dependent upon public funds for its support. The old Society was truly an agricultural one, and diffused much more benefit with far less means; whilst this is being converted into a political engine of the worst description,—and its revenue going to waste as rapidly as did the Clever Seed from the leaky casks imported last Fall.

Yours, &c.,

### A NATIVE.

P. S. The insincerity of the Committee's often expressed desire to advance the agricultural interests of the Colony, is strikingly exemplified by their gross partiality in the matter of their public advertising. Your paper being taken where the other Journals are never seen, its readers would be ignorant regarding the proceedings of the Society, were it not for your gratuitous publications; and there are many, I have no doubt, who have been deterred from subscribing to the Society by the conduct of the Committee in this particular. Until the Depot of the Society shall cease to be a political shop, and the rendezvous of Compact men, neither you nor the public can expect justice or fair play from it.

Cavendish, December 30, 1850.

Alfred Tennyson has been appointed poet laureate by the Queen of England, in place of Mr. Wordsworth deceased.

### THE EXAMINER.

Wednesday, January 1, 1851.

### A FREE COUNTRY.

The editor of the *Islander* tells the constituencies who elected Messrs. Coles, Rae and Whelan, to call upon them to "vacate their seats forthwith," because the *Islander* presumes they are looking for offices, and that their obtaining them is all they mean by Responsible Government. Maclean's well known propensity to falsehood precludes the necessity of our giving him the lie in attributing a desire for office where he is not sure any such desire exists, or in asserting that the obtaining of office by three individuals means Responsible Government, and nothing more. What a little paradise would this Island be for Toryism to bloom and flourish in unassailed, if Maclean's word had any weight with those or any other constituency! What a model of a free country would Prince Edward Island be, if D. Maclean had authority to proscribe every member of Assembly who dared to express an opinion in opposition to him or to his employers, and tell the constituency of each that they should call upon him to resign his seat! It requires no extraordinary stretch of imagination to picture Duncan issuing his ukase in the following style: "This Island is exceedingly well governed so long as the present incumbents of office are retained. Take, for example, the Treasurer, Collector of Excise, and Queen's Printer, Mr. Hensley, though long denounced as a money jobber by my friend Mr. Palmer, and ridiculed by the Compact as "a stranger," has established a claim upon our attachment by his support of our Government in the Council; Mr. Coles aspires to his place—let Mr. Coles be dismissed from his seat in the Assembly. Mr. Stewart has been our obedient and humble servant upon all occasions—has voted and canvassed for us at elections: we are bound to protect him in his office: Mr. Rae aspires to his place; let Mr. Rae be dismissed from the Assembly. Mr. Hazard—the illustrious Mr. Hazard—how much do we owe thee for suppers and for wine! for panegyrics on our conduct, and defamation of our adversaries! thou art a pearl of great price, and must be continued in office as long as thou livest; let Whelan, who dares to sigh for 'thy broad margins and big type,' be dismissed from his seat in the Assembly!" This would be a free country, indeed, if Duncan, Maclean and the Family Compact were suffered to have their own way in every thing. The old fashioned mode of conducting an election would have to be completely set aside. No constituency should presume to exercise their own judgment in the choice of a representative. Mr. Maclean's opinion should be taken as to the character and qualification

of every candidate,—and if any one presented himself for election with the least independence of spirit, or the slightest disposition to oppose by speech or vote the interests and wishes of the men in power, he should be "forthwith" thrown aside!

Since Duncan has taken up the trade of constitution-tinkering, he has favoured us with sundry long lectures on the impropriety of giving government offices to members of the Legislature, alleging that those who take such offices must become tools of the Governor, who is, according to him, a tool to the Colonial Minister. From this allegation we must infer that every Government officer now in the Colony is a tool and not a faithful servant of the people—an inference not very complimentary to the gentlemen who pay Duncan Maclean for editing the *Islander*. It is excessively droll to find Maclean advocating such a doctrine, and at the same time supporting the pretensions of a party who wheedled to get Mr. Palmer made Solicitor General whilst he held a seat in the House, and who, only a few months ago, schemed, but schemed in vain, to put Mr. Thoroton—another member of the Assembly—into the office of Treasurer. With very few exceptions, in fact, every individual who has held, or sought for, office in this Island has been at one time or another the veriest tool and sycophant to the Governor, or his immediate advisers, it was possible to find. So inherently rotten is the system which has been tolerated, that the highest qualification for office consisted in being servile and parasitical to the Compact, who had the ear of the Governor, and who were in their turn, servile and parasitical to the Governor. And this is the precious system Maclean labours to perpetuate.

### THE LEGISLATURE.

By a proclamation in yesterday's *Gazette* the Legislature of this Island is again prorogued until Tuesday the 28th January. When that time arrives we suppose it will be prorogued for two or three months longer, so that the *enil day* for the present officials may be put off till the farthest possible time. The Legislatures of all the other Provinces have several weeks since been summoned to meet for the dispatch of business; and in New Brunswick the leading journals have most indignantly reprobated the conduct of the Government, which, like our own, awaits its extinction at the hands of the Legislature—for delaying till the 6th Feb. the meeting of Parliament. Here we have two years legislative business to transact, which will require a longer sitting than on any former occasion, and yet there is no call of the House, and the Lord knows when there will be. To say there are no instructions from the Colonial Minister, on the question at issue with the Assembly;