

THE EXAMINER:

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

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Literature.

IS IT TIME?

When a duty's to be done,
Or a labour not begun,
Of our daily task we shun,
When postponement is a crime:
And, for temporary ease,
Waste the hours by slow degrees,
And in idle, self-love to please,
Is it Time?

One would think that if 'twere shown,
That an evil let alone,
Still has large and larger grown,
Since its trivial birth and prime,
Some one having power to cure
Hearts diseased or minds impure,
Would not ask while these endure,
Is it Time?

Why, when after strictest test,
We've discovered what is best,
Do we fold our hands at rest,
In idleness or sublime;
Or, drifting with the years,
Down a dark life-stream of tears,
Ask, as wreck on wreck appears,
Is it Time?

Shall Experience, tap the way,
Or divert and lead astray,
The good purpose of to-day,
Ere the hours of morrow chime?
Shall the generous wish arise
To be stilled in the sighs
Of the man who vainly cries,
Is it Time?

What is good for thee to do,
Find thee out; and that pursue,
Keeping still thy purpose true,
As from he got to height you climb.
When a good deed's to be done,
When the labour's not begun,
When will a battle may be won,
Is it Time!

SING, MARY, SING THAT SONG AGAIN.

Sing, Mary, sing that song again,
It takes me back to home,
To scenes and friends long passed away,
To joys that seldom come.
It takes me back across the sea,
To where I spent my youth—
My youthful years of laughing mirth,
Of innocence and truth.

Sing, Mary, sing that song again,
It fills my heart with joy,
And makes me dream of once more,
A young and happy boy;
It brings my father to my eyes—
My mother to my view,
My brothers and my sisters dear,
And these, my Mary, too.

Sing, Mary, sing that song again,
It takes me back to home,
To Scotia's hills and ringing rills,
Her wild waves' created foam—
It takes me back to years when I
Knew neither care nor pain;
Sing, Mary, sing that song, my love,
Oh! sing that song again.

THE RESCUE.

Mr. Robert Bruce, originally descended from some branch of the Scottish family of that name, was born, in humble circumstances, about the close of the last century, at Terbay, in the south of England, and there bred up to a seafaring life.

When about thirty years of age, he went, in the year 1825, he was first mate of a barque trading between Liverpool and St. John, N. W. Brunswick. On one of her voyages, bound westward, being then some five or six weeks out, and having neared the eastern portion of the Banks of Newfoundland, the captain and mate had been on deck at noon, taking an observation of the sun; after which they both descended to calculate their day's work. The cabin, a small one, was immediately at the stern of the vessel, and the short stairway descending to it, ran athwart ships. Immediatly opposite to this stairway, just beyond a small square landing, there were two doors, close to each other, the one opening aft into the cabin, the other fronting the stairway into the state-room. The deck in the state room was in the forward part of it, close to the door; so that one sitting at it and looking over his shoulder could see into the cabin.

The mate, absorbed in his calculations, which did not result as he had expected, varying considerably from the dead reckoning, had not noticed the captain's motions. When he had completed his calculations, he called out without looking round, "I make our latitude and longitude so and so. Can that be right? How is yours?"

Receiving no reply, he repeated his question, glancing over his shoulder, and perceiving, as he thought, the captain busy writing on his slate. Still no answer. Thereupon he rose, and, as he fronted the cabin-door, the figure he had mistaken for the captain raised his head and disclosed to the astonished mate the features of an entire stranger. Bruce was so amazed; but, as he met that fixed gaze looking directly at him in grave silence, and because he was assured that it was no person whom he had ever seen before it was too much for him; and instead of stopping to question the seeming intruder, he rushed upon deck in such quick alarm that it instantly attracted the captain's attention. "Why, Mr. Bruce," said the latter, "what in the world is the matter with you?"

"The mate, sir? Who is that at your desk?"

"No one that I know of?"

"But there is, sir; there is a stranger there."

"A stranger! Why, man, you must be dreaming. You must have seen the steward there, or the second mate. Who else would venture down without orders?"

"Bar, sir, he was sitting in your arm-chair, fronting the door, writing on your slate. Then he looked up full in my face; and I never saw a man plainer and distinctly in this world, I saw him!"

"Him? Whom?"

"God knows, sir; I don't. I saw a man, and a man I never seen in my life before!"

"You must be going crazy, Mr. Bruce. A stranger, and we nearly six weeks out!"

"I know, sir; but then I saw him."

"Go down and see who it is."

Bruce hesitated. "I never was a believer in ghosts," he said; "but if the truth must be told, sir, I'd rather not face it alone."

"Come, come, man. Go down at once, and don't make a fool of yourself before the crew."

"I hope you're always found me willing to do what's reasonable," Bruce replied, changing his colour; "but if it's all the same to you, sir, I'd rather we should both go down together."

The captain descended the stairs, and the mate followed him. Nobody in the cabin! They examined the same rooms. Not a soul to be found!

"Well, Mr. Bruce," said the captain, "did not I tell you, you had been dreaming?"

"It's all very well to say so, sir; but if I didn't see that man writing on your slate, may I never see my home and family again!"

"Ah! writing on the slate! Then it should be there still." And the captain took it up.

"By God!" he exclaimed, "here's something, sure enough! Is that your writing, Mr. Bruce?"

The mate took the slate, and there, in plain, legible characters, stood the words, "STEER TO THE NORTH-WEST."

"Have you been trifling with me, sir?" added the captain in a stern tone.

"On my word as a man and a sailor," replied Bruce, "I know no more of this matter than you do. I have told you the exact truth."

The captain sat down at his desk, the slate before him, in deep thought. At last, turning the slate over and pushing it toward Bruce, he said, "Write down, 'Steer to the north-west.'"

The mate complied, and the captain after narrowly comparing the two hand-writings, said, "Mr. Bruce, go and tell the second mate to come down here."

He came, and, at the captain's request, he also wrote the same words. So did the steward. So in succession did every man of the crew who could write at all, but not one of the various hands resembled, in any degree, the mysterious writing.

When the crew retired the captain sat deep in thought. "Could any one have been stowed away?" at last he said. "The ship must be searched; and if I don't find the fellow he must be a good hand at hide-and-seek. Order up all hands."

Every nook and corner of the vessel from stem to stern, was thoroughly searched, and that with all the eagerness of excited curiosity—for the report had gone out that a stranger had shown himself on board; but not a living soul beyond the officers and the crew was found.

Returning to the cabin after their fruitless search, "Mr. Bruce," said the captain, "what the devil do you make of all this?"

"Can't tell, sir. I saw the man write; you see the writing. There must be something in it."

"Well, it would seem so. We have the wind free, and I have a great mind to keep her away and see what will come of it."

"I surely would, sir, if I were in your place. It's only a few hours lost, at the worst."

"Well, we'll see. Go on deck and give the course north-west. And, Mr. Bruce," he added, as the mate rose to go, "have a look-out aloft, and let it be a hand you can depend on."

His orders were obeyed. About three o'clock the look-out reported an iceberg nearly ahead, and shortly after, what he thought was a vessel of some kind close to it. As they approached, the captain's glass disclosed the fact that it was a dismantled ship, apparently frozen to the ice, and with a good many human beings on it. Shortly after they heaved to, and sent out the boats to the relief of the sufferers.

It proved to be a vessel from Quebec, bound to Liverpool with passengers on board. She had got entangled in the ice, and finally frozen fast, and had passed several weeks in a most critical situation. She was stove, her decks swamped, in fact, a mere wreck; all her provisions and almost all her water gone. Her crew and passengers had lost all hopes of being saved, and their gratitude for the unexpected rescue was very great.

As one of the men who had been brought away in the third boat, that had reached the wreck was ascending the ship's side, the mate, catching a glimpse of his face, started back in consternation. It was the very face he had seen three or four hours ago, looking at him from the captain's desk. At first he tried to persuade himself it might be fancy; but the more he examined the man the more sure he became that he was right. Not only the face, but the person and dress, exactly corresponded.

As soon as the exhausted and famished passengers were cared for, and the tarque on her course again, the mate called the captain aside. "It seems that was not a ghost to-day, sir; the man's alive!"

"What do you mean? Who's alive?"

"Why, sir, one of the passengers we have just saved is the same man I saw writing on your slate at noon. I would swear to it in a justice court."

"Upon my word, Mr. Bruce," replied the captain, "it gets more and more singular. Let us go and see this man."

They found him in conversation with the captain of the rescued ship. They both came forward, and expressed in the warmest terms their gratitude for deliverance from a horrible fate—slow-coming death by exposure and starvation.

The captain replied that he had but done what was certain they would have done for him under the same circumstances, and asked them both to step down into the cabin. Then, turning to the passenger, he said, "I hope, sir, you will not think I am trifling with you, but I would be much obliged to you if you would write a few words on this slate." And he handed him the slate, with that side up on which the mysterious writing was not. "I will do anything you ask," replied the passenger; "but what shall I write?"

"A few words are all I want. Suppose you write 'Steer to the north-west.'"

The passenger, evidently puzzled to make out the motive for such a request, complied, however, with a smile. The captain took up the slate and examined it closely; then stepping aside so as to conceal the slate from the passenger, he turned it over and gave it to him with the other side up.

"You say this is your handwriting?" said he.

"I need not say so," rejoined the other, looking at it, "for you saw me write it."

"And this?" said the captain, turning the slate over.

The man looked first at one writing, then at the other, quite confounded. "At last," what is the meaning of all this?" he said. "I only wrote one of these. Who wrote the other?"

"That's more than I can tell you, sir. My mate here says you wrote it, sitting at this desk, at noon to-day."

"The captain of the wreck and the passenger looked at each other, exchanging glances of intelligence and surprise; and the former asked the latter, "Did you dream that you wrote on this slate?"

"No, sir, not that I remember."

"What was this gentleman about at noon to-day?"

"Captain," rejoined the other, "the whole thing is most mysterious and extraordinary, and I had intended to speak to you about it as soon as we got a little quiet. This gentleman" (pointing to the passenger), "being much exhausted, fell into a heavy sleep some time before noon. After an hour or more he awoke and said to me, 'Captain, we shall be relieved this very day.' When I asked him what he dreamed that he was on board a barque, and that she was coming to our rescue. He described her appearance and rig; and to our utter astonishment, when your vessel hove in sight she corresponded exactly to his description of her. We had not put much faith in what he said; yet still we hoped there might be something in it, for drowning men, you know, will catch at straws. As it has turned out, I cannot but doubt that it was all arranged, in some incomprehensible way, by an over-ruling Providence, so that we might be saved. To Him be all thanks for all his kindness to us."

"There is no doubt," rejoined the other captain, "that the writing on the slate, let it come there as it may, saved all your lives. I was steering at the time considerably south of west, and I altered my course to north-west, and I had a look-out aloft, to see what would come of it. But you say," he added, turning to the passenger, "that you did not dream of writing on a slate?"

"No, sir, I have no recollection whatever of doing so. I got the impression that the barque I saw in my run was coming to rescue us; but how that impression came I cannot tell. There is another strange thing about it," he added, "everything here on board seems to me quite familiar; yet I am very sure I never was in your vessel before. It is all a puzzle to me. What did your mate see?"

Thereupon Mr. Bruce related to them all the circumstances above detailed. The conclusion they finally arrived at was, that it was a special interposition of Providence to save them from what seemed a hopeless fate.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 16th February, 1860.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having taken his seat in the Chair of State, and, in obedience to His Excellency's commands, the House of Assembly, with their Speaker, having taken their places at the Bar, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:

[For Speech see last No. of *Examiner*.]

The Speech being ended, and the House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire, after Prayers, the House proceeded to business which amounted to little more than consulting the usual Parliamentary Committees.

It having been unanimously resolved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, to return the thanks of the House for his speech delivered this day, the Hon. Mr. DINGWELL, Hon. Mr. FURGAN, and Hon. Mr. JOHNSON were appointed a Committee to prepare a draft Address accordingly.

ROBERT BLAKE IRVING, Esquire, having been appointed Reporter to the House for the present Session, the Hon. Mr. WALKER and the Hon. Mr. BIGNALL were appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the publication of the Proceedings and Debates of the House.

PUBLICATION OF THE DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE.

FRIDAY, 17th February, 1860.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. WALKER, one of the Committees appointed to make arrangements for the efficient reporting of the Debates and Proceedings of the Legislative Council during the present Session, it was unanimously agreed that the time yesterday allowed them to lay their Report before the House, be extended to Monday, the 20th instant.

PRINTING THE JOURNAL.

Hon. Mr. WALKER, from the Committee appointed to receive Tenders for printing the Journal of the House for the present Session, reported that the Committee had received two Tenders, which were as follows:—

One from Mr. James Barrett Cooper, engaging to perform the work for Nineteen Shillings and six pence for every four pages, and bind each copy for the sum of Three Shillings.

One from Mr. John S. Bremner, engaging to perform the work for the sum of Nineteen Shillings per sheet, and to bind each copy for the sum of Three Shillings.

The latter Tender being the lowest it was accepted by the House.

PRIVILEGE OF FRANKING LETTERS.

His Honor the PRESIDENT having propounded the question whether the usual privilege of franking letters should be reserved to the House during the present Session, a short conversational discussion ensued thereon. The Hon. Mr. HATFIELD and the Hon. Mr. JOHNSON seemed to think that it might very well be dispensed with altogether. Hon. G. I. SWABEY and Hon. Mr. DINGWELL argued that, although the practice of general franking, as formerly practised, was a grievous abuse of this privilege; yet, as a spirit of our free constitution demanded that the people should, during the sittings of the Legislature, have it in their power to enter into free, untrammelled correspondence, not only with their immediate representatives in the Lower House, but also with the members of the Upper House, it was only just and reasonable that the privilege should be continued to the House, and were it to be withdrawn, it would, in some measure, be an infringement upon the political rights and privileges of the people. Such, in brief, was the scope and tenor of their observations, and to their view of the question no opposition being made, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. DINGWELL, it was unanimously agreed that, during the Session, the privilege of franking letters should be enjoyed and practised by the House, to the same extent that it is enjoyed and practised by the Lower House; that is all untrammelled letters to or from members of the House, during the Session to be postage free, so far as concerns the writers, and also all foreign letters passing through the Island Post Office addressed to any member or members of the House; but the privilege not to extend to letters which may be sent out of the Island by any of them.

MONDAY, 20th February, 1860.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee appointed to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, reported a Draft which he read in his place.

The Report was received, and, on motion of Hon. Col. SWABEY, the consideration thereof was made the Order of the day for to-morrow.

PRINTING THE DEBATES OF THE COUNCIL.

Hon. Mr. WALKER, from the Committee appointed to make arrangements for the publication of the Reports of the Proceedings and Debates of the House for the present Session, reported that they had received a communication from Mr. William Henry Budge, Superintendent of the Examiner Office, stating that the Debates and Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the present Session will be published in the style of the Parliamentary Reporter, for 1856, and published in full length in the *Examiner* newspaper for the sum of £25, for the whole work. A short discussion ensued, in which, at the instance of the Hon. Mr. PALMER, it was debated, but without the slightest manifestation of party feeling, whether it would be better, as there was only one of a Tender, to set it aside, and agree to have the proceedings and Debates of the House published in two of the leading Island journals, with an understanding that if therein they should be published in full and continuously, the two editors or proprietors of the two journals so publishing the said proceedings and Debates, should, at the close of the Session, be awarded, by vote of the House, suitable remuneration for the services so rendered by them. The Hon. Mr. PALMER, Hon. Mr. JOHNSON, and His Honor the President inclined to favor this mode of publication. Hon. Col. Swabey maintained that as the House had called for Tenders for the performance of the said service, and, although only one Tender had been made as the House had declared or admitted, that the sum, £25, for which, by that Tender, the work or service was offered to be performed, was an exceedingly moderate demand, the House was, in good faith, bound, he would say religiously, bound to accept the Tender. Hon. Mr. DINGWELL, Hon. Mr. CRASWELL and Hon. Mr. HATFIELD, each briefly supported the same view of the question; and finally it was agreed that the Tender should be accepted.

In order that the publication of the proceedings and Debates of the House might, for the information of the public, receive a wider circulation than they could do, should the publication be confined to one newspaper, after a short applicable discussion, it was, on motion of Hon. Col. Swabey, Resolved, that the House will, at the close of the Session, besides procuring their engagement to pay for the publication of their proceedings and Debates from the office of the *Examiner* newspaper, also suitably remunerate the proprietor of the *Islander* newspaper, for the publication therein of a full, correct and continuous series of the said proceedings and Debates; provided the publication be completed within fourteen days after the rising of the House.

PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT OF JEREMIAH SIMPSON, ESQUIRE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

His Honor the PRESIDENT acquainted the House that His Excellency the Lieut. Governor had provisionally appointed Jeremiah Simpson, Esquire, by Warrant bearing date the 13th day of February, 1860, a member of the Legislative Council, and that he, Mr. Simpson, desired to be admitted accordingly.

The Hon. Col. Swabey, and the Hon. Mr. DINGWELL were appointed a Committee to attend Mr. Simpson, and see him duly qualified. This having been done, and duly reported to the House, Mr. Simpson was introduced between the Hon. Col. Swabey, and the Hon. Mr. DINGWELL, and took his seat.

TUESDAY, 21st February, 1860.

CHARLOTTETOWN DEBATING CLUB.

His Honor the PRESIDENT had before the House a communication which he had received from Benjamin Davies, Esquire, of the Debating Club, in Charlottetown, stating that, by a Resolution of the Club of the 17th inst., the members of the Houses of the Legislature will be welcome to the Club Room during the hours of debate, every Friday evening, at eight o'clock.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. WALKER in the Chair.

The several paragraphs of the Draft having been submitted *seriatim* to the Committee, were severally agreed to without any amendment, with the exception of the last, and the amendment thereof, being merely a verbal one, it appears to be unnecessary to notice it in this report.

The House having been resumed, the Address, as amended in Committee, was reported by the Hon. Mr. Walker, and it having been ordered that the Report be received, it was read a second time, and agreed to by the House.

GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BANK FOR THE CASHING OF TREASURY WARRANTS.

When His Honor the CHAIRMAN had read that paragraph of the Address which responds to that paragraph of the Speech, in which it is stated that "a preliminary arrangement, with the Bank of Prince Edward Island, by which, for the future, Treasury Warrants can be, at once, exchanged for Cash;" His Honor the President said that if His Honor, the member of the Government, holding a seat in this Council, felt himself at liberty to communicate the information, he (His Honor the President), and their Honors generally, he believed, would like to know on what basis such arrangement had been made.

His Honor Mr. PALMER promptly and in the most courteous manner, responded to the question. He said the arrangement is simply this: the Government have opened an account with the Bank of £10,000, and would issue cheques on it for the full payment in cash of all Treasury Warrants which should be issued by them (the Government). Should the Government, at any time, overdraw, the Bank would charge 6 per cent upon its advances; and should the reverse be the case, allow 6 per cent for whatever balance should remain in its coffers due to the Government.

His Honor the PRESIDENT observed that the arrangement was a highly advantageous one, highly creditable to the Government, and not less so to the Bank, by entering into it, had displayed a liberality and public spirit unparalleled by any other Banking Institution in the Colonies.

His Honor Mr. JOHNSON briefly expressed himself to the same effect.

The paragraph which was amended in Committee, in the Address, as reported by the Hon. Mr. JOHNSON, stood thus:—

"We cannot let this our first opportunity pass without heartily welcoming Your Excellency amongst us, nor without congratulating Your Excellency on the auspicious, social and financial circumstances which have attended this, your first opening of Parliament; and we sincerely pray that Your Excellency's protracted stay amongst us may be continuously attended by such like favouring circumstances as shall conduce to the personal and relative happiness of yourself, and evidence of the prosperity of the Colony."

The amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. BIGNALL and seconded by the Hon. Col. Swabey, and the propriety of which, after a brief discussion, was unanimously concurred in by the House, is as follows:—

"We cannot suffer this our first opportunity to pass without heartily welcoming Your Excellency amongst us, and expressing our sincere hope that your residence in this Colony may not only be conducive to your personal satisfaction and happiness, but attended by a progressive measure in the welfare and prosperity of the Colony over which you have been called to preside."

Hon. Mr. BIGNALL, in moving the foregoing amendment, briefly remarked that he was very far from wishing to diminish the measure of respect and courtesy intended, by the paragraph as it stood in the reported Address, to be conceded and paid to His Excellency; but he certainly did think that well-known facts strongly militated against the assertion which was implied by the words "auspicious social circumstances," and that, therefore, they ought to be cancelled.

Hon. Col. SWABEY, in seconding the amendment, said that no doubt the paragraph, as it stood in "the Address," had been penned with the best and most honest intention; still, however, he was of opinion that, if their Honors would fully consider the position in which they themselves then stood, if they would recall to mind the substance of their Address of last Session to Her Majesty the Queen, remembering, at the same time that the circumstances and provisions which called forth that Address, were still unchanged and unabated, they would be fully convinced that to acquiesce in the assumed propriety of congratulating His Excellency, at this juncture of public affairs, on "the auspicious social circumstances of the Colony," would be a positive stultification of themselves. As to the social condition of the Colony, he would then, however, say nothing, although, if he chose to do so, he could say much; and as to the political change which had taken place, it remained to be seen whether it was for good or for evil. He recommended the preservation of the complimentary style, but the cancelling of the expression which contradicted the expression of opinion made by the majority of the House last Session—an expression which he inclined to believe might have been cunningly introduced to entrap that majority.

His Honor the PRESIDENT thought it would be best to strike out of the congratulatory words "auspicious social circumstances"; and that the proposed amendment was, upon the whole, preferable to the original paragraph.

Hon. Mr. PALMER said, that as the paragraph did not involve any principle, discussion was unnecessary. He did not rise with a view to the maintaining of the paragraph of the reported Address; although he certainly could not admit the validity of the Hon. Col. Swabey's objections to the words "auspicious social and financial circumstances." For himself, he did not remember a period when the social condition of the people was of a more pleasing and gratifying character; and as to the finances of the Colony, it was undeniable that they were in a very satisfactory state. The Hon. Col. Swabey, however, perhaps understood the words "social circumstances" in quite a different sense from that in which he (Hon. Mr. Palmer) apprehended them. He would not take up the time of the House by any further remarks; nor would he seek to divide the House on the motion of amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

Note.—The Legislative Council having very properly determined that their Debates must be continuously published, from week to week, during the Legislative Session, and brought to a close within fourteen days after its termination; since any portion of them which might be published, after that lapse of time, would, in all probability, be wholly forgotten.

regarded by the public in general; the Reporter, well aware that unless by condensation of matter, that is by giving the substance and spirit of the Debates, instead of verbatim Reports, it would be impossible for him to acquire himself of his prescribed duties within the period assigned for their performance, has adopted the mode above indicated, to which, with the approbation of the Legislative Council, he will adhere throughout the Session.

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MONDAY, 20th February, 1860.

House in Committee on the Address in answer to the Lieut. Governor's Speech.—Mr. McNeill in the Chair.

The 1st and 2nd paragraphs were agreed to. The 3rd having been read—

Hon. Mr. COLES said.—I rise not to offer any objection to the passage of the paragraph, nor to offer any objection to the improvement of our system of education,—and the Government shall receive my support of any well devised system of improvement. No scheme of human origin can be perfect; and I am most pleased to observe, recently, that an able writer, after giving great credit for the introduction of the system, threw out valuable suggestions for the improvement of our schools, and the improvement of the class of teachers, by holding out greater inducements for well qualified persons to embrace the profession. With reference to the Central Academy, the late Government contemplated making alterations in its constitution, but religious feelings had been aroused to such a degree, that it was not deemed advisable to introduce them until they should have been generally received; and soon be the case. The Island should have an institution capable of affording an education equal to that which the youth of other Colonies can obtain. I will cheerfully support any measure which may be introduced, based on just and equitable principles. The Address need not be discussed paragraph by paragraph,—last year the whole was debated before a paragraph was agreed to. I think that there is one very important omission from the Speech; in fact, a most important matter has received not the slightest allusion. The Hon. Mr. Palmer, the Leader of the Government, has stated that the Lieut. Governor has received authority to alter the constitution of the Legislative Council. A matter of such great importance should not have been kept back a day. The despatches should have been given to the public through the *Gazette*, as soon as possible, after having been received; but here we have the Legislature convened, and no reference is made to the subject, which should have formed the subject of a distinct paragraph in the Speech, and the despatches connected with it should be laid on the table without delay. All proposals of executive action ought to be referred to in the Speech from the Throne. It may be said that the late Government did not indicate all their intended measures in a manner, but a measure so important as the change of the constitution of one branch of the Legislature, should occupy a conspicuous place in the Speech. The people were informed by the paper which supports the present Government, that the Lieut. Governor had received the authority to make the alterations, and even expressed the hope that Col. Swabey would not be removed, but allowed to retain his seat, as an old friend. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—The House and the Government ought certainly feel great obligations to the hon. member for the lecture on political morality, which came with a very good grace from the hon. Leader of the late Government, when his political course is considered. If my memory serves me right, but four short years ago, in 1856, when that gentleman was at the head of the Government, a far more important alteration was made in the constitution. The number of members of this House was increased from 24 to 30, and the electoral districts were changed, cut up and re-adjusted in such a manner as was considered most likely to avert the impending ruin of the party in power. Was there any allusion to that measure in the Lieut. Governor's Speech? Or were the people consulted on the subject? The Bill was introduced on Good Friday, by the hon. the late Queen's Printer and others, who, not having attended their place of worship, and, consequently, feeling the want of something to do, amused themselves by preparing a measure, altering the whole character of the representative branch of the Legislature. With reference to the despatches referred to, I can inform the hon. member that when the Government considered that the interests of the Colony would be promoted by the production of an expedient, they will be presented. As to the passage referring to Education, the hon. member states that he has no objection to it.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I merely stated that no system was perfect.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—I admit that the Free Education Act has been productive of great benefits to the people. I have always supported the principle of that measure, and shall continue to do so. One great benefit arising from the general diffusion of education among the people is, that it will render them less liable to be misled by the demagogues of stump orators and demagogues. The Central Academy, as at present constituted, is but a day school for Charlottetown, and the sooner it is placed on the footing of a collegiate institution, the better. It is premature to boast of our educational system, until the Colony is provided with the means of imparting instruction of a higher order than it has at present. I therefore hope that when a measure shall be introduced, having for its object the elevation of the standard of that institution, it will receive the general support of the House.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—It is amusing to listen to the hon. member objecting to the late Government, for not having introduced into the Speech mention of a measure, which he says was not mentioned until Good Friday, some six weeks after the commencement of the Session. I believe, prepared by Messrs. Whelan and Clark. I can tell that hon. member