

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., JUNE 7, 1858.

LORD STANLEY'S SPEECH ON THE LOAN BILL.

We copy from the London Times of the 11th ult., the speech of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the occasion of introducing into the House of Commons a resolution authorising Her Majesty to guarantee the Loan to be raised under the Bill passed two years ago, and which the proprietary faction prophesied would be "proterea nihil," which, being interpreted by the hon. member from Port Hill, meaneth, "it's a bad job whatever," and by the hon. member for Belfast, "it's all smoke."

We select the following passages as worthy of special notice, coming as they do from the Chief of the Colonial Office, of whose enlightened, candid and impartial tone of mind they afford most gratifying evidence; and it is truly pleasing to observe this the first official recognition by the Imperial authorities, that injustice has been inflicted upon the country, that the proceedings of the British Government operated unjustly and oppressively on the great bulk of the population, who were necessarily thrown into a state of antagonism towards their self-imposed landlords. After shewing that the principle of affording Imperial aid to Colonial undertakings was objectionable, his Lordship states as his reason for deploring in this instance from what he believed to be sound theory—

"His justification was that in assisting the colony of Prince Edward Island to relieve itself from the embarrassment in which it was placed, they were not granting any favour or conferring any boon, but were simply, in some degree, repairing a wrong which had been caused by an act of the Government of this country, and for which they were in justice bound to provide a remedy."

Again he says that, from 1787,

"The history of Prince Edward Island presented a record of one long quarrel between the proprietary thus imposed by the Imperial Government upon the colony, and the population who were their tenants. Various attempts were made to have the land declared forfeited on account of the non-fulfilment of the conditions originally imposed by the Government. It would seem, looking back at this distance of time, that such a proceeding was founded in reason, but it was not encouraged by the Government of the day, who adopted a directly opposite course."

The last quotation is so candid an admission, that the Imperial authorities of the present day have seen the errors of their predecessors, acting at the instigation of the proprietary oligarchy, that we give it a separate notice as being alike honorable to its author and the Government of which he is a prominent member—

"The proposal now made would relieve the Island from an embarrassment which it did not create for itself, and which had, indeed, been the direct work of the Imperial Government."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, MAY 10.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LOAN.

The House having gone into Committee—

LORD STANLEY rose to move a resolution, to the effect that Her Majesty be authorised to guarantee the payment of a loan, not exceeding £100,000, for the service of the colony of Prince Edward Island, and stated that, although it was necessary to ask the Committee to assent to this resolution in order that he might be enabled to introduce a Bill on the subject, they did not thereby pledge themselves either to the principle or to the details of the measure. He believed from what had taken place at an early period of the session, and also from the proceedings last year with reference to the New Zealand Loan guarantee, that a general opinion was entertained in the House that Imperial guarantees of loans raised for colonial purposes were objectionable in principle (hear, hear), and in that view he fully concurred. He regarded any system of Imperial guarantees for colonial loans as not only dangerous and embarrassing to the Imperial finances, but as unjustifiable so far as the interests of the colonies themselves were concerned, because it was most important that the colonies should fully understand that co-existent with the right of self-government was the duty of self-support. If he were asked why, having laid down a rule of that kind, he proposed to depart from it in this instance, his justification was that the present was a special and exceptional case, and one which was not likely to recur. His justification was that in assisting the colony of Prince Edward Island to relieve itself from the embarrassment in which it was placed they were not granting any favour or conferring any boon, but were simply, in some degree, repairing a wrong which had been caused by an act of the Government of this country, and for which they were in justice bound to provide a remedy. He could show to what an extent the growth of that colony had been retarded by an act of the Imperial Legislature passed nearly 90 years ago. In 1767 the greater part of the land in the colony, amounting to nearly 1,500,000 acres, was disposed of, he could hardly say by sale, but by public lottery in London, in the course of a single day. No less than 1,340,000 acres were disposed of in 67 lots of 20,000 acres each. These grants were made subject to a condition of introducing a certain number of settlers, at the rate of one for every 100 acres, and also subject to a quitrent varying from 2s. to 6s. per 100 acres, to be paid to the Government. These conditions were in themselves sufficiently imprudent, but the Government did not even interfere to enforce on behalf of the colony the conditions which it had thus imposed. Soon after the settlement of the colony the American war broke out, and it was then alleged that the introduction of settlers according to the terms of the agreement had become impossible. Settlers were not introduced, and the Government tacitly, if not in express words, dispensed with that part of the obligation. The payments fell into arrear, and year by year the result was that almost the whole soil of the colony was alienated, and that the greater part of the proprietors were absentees, or speculators with very little capital, who from the conditions of their tenure were necessarily placed in a position of antagonism to the great mass of the population. It was well known to all who were acquainted with the feelings of colonial communities that the great desire of every colonist was to become the possessor of land; and from the period he had mentioned the history of Prince Edward Island presented a record of one long quarrel between the proprietary thus imposed by the Imperial Government upon the colony and the population who were their tenants. Various attempts were made to have the land declared forfeited on account of the non-fulfilment of the conditions originally imposed by the Government. It would seem, looking back at this distance of time, that such a proceeding was founded in reason, but it was not encouraged by the Government of the day, who adopted a directly opposite course. A large amount of arrears was forgiven in 1818, and at the same time the amount of the very moderate quitrent originally imposed was reduced. In 1830 a further change was made, the quitrent was abandoned, and a land-tax was substituted. About that time the policy of the great mass of the colonists, who had all along been opposed to the proprietary tenure, appeared to have changed, and, instead of seeking to obtain the forfeiture of the estates on the ground of non-compliance with the original conditions, they attempted to drive out the proprietors by imposing upon them excessive and unfair taxation. At the same time a reduction in the value of the colonial currency took place to such an extent that 18d. currency became only worth 1s., a proceeding which reduced in that proportion the rents payable to the proprietors. In 1855 the matter was brought to a crisis. The Governor sent home two Acts, one imposing a rate or duty on the rent-rolls of the proprietors for military expenses, and for the further encouragement of education, and the other giving compensation to tenants for improvements. The Imperial Government scarcely ever interposed in the internal affairs of a colony, but the then Colonial Secretary (Sir G. Grey) felt himself

bound in November, 1855, to disallow both those Acts. It was to be remarked, too, that the Governor, in sanctioning them, spoke quite as strongly as the right hon. baronet of the danger of the principle thereby established, and said he only gave his assent to these measures, in hope of averting still greater evils. The right hon. gentleman (Mr. Labouchere) who succeeded the right hon. baronet wrote to the Governor in December, 1855, to express his intention to resist all measures of a similar character which were aimed at the spoliation of the proprietors. The right hon. gentleman suggested that an amicable settlement might be effected by these lands being bought up. In April, 1856, both Houses agreed in proposing a loan of £100,000, to buy up these lands, and asked for the guarantee of the Imperial Legislature, promising to repay the loan in 20 years. The right hon. gentleman (Mr. Labouchere) assented to this request. From some cause the Bill was postponed last year, but a promise was given that the Bill should be brought in this session. The revenue of the colony, which was £12,000, in 1848, was now between £28,000 and £30,000 being an increase in the proportion of five to two in eight years. The colony was free from debt, and had a small available surplus. A sinking fund was to be provided, and the debt would not extend over more than 20 years. The proposal now made would relieve the island from an embarrassment which it did not create for itself, and which had indeed been the direct work of the Imperial Government. The noble lord concluded by moving that Her Majesty be authorized to guarantee the payment of a loan to an amount not exceeding £100,000 for the service of Prince Edward Island, with interest not exceeding 4 per cent., and that provision be made out of the consolidated fund for the sum payable under this guarantee.

Mr. BLACKBURN said it was clear that the vote was introduced by the present Government in fulfilment of a pledge given by the previous Government. Parliament, however, was under no pledge to pass such a vote, and he trusted that it would not meet with the concurrence of the House.

The motion was agreed to, the resolution was ordered to be reported, and the House resumed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—THURSDAY, MAY 13.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LOAN BILL.—This Bill was brought in by Lord STANLEY, and read a first time.

THE SOURIS ROW.

We promised, in our last No., to correct some glaring errors in the report of the Souris meeting, which was published in the *Islander* of the 28th ultimo, over the signature of the Chairman, Mr. A. Leslie, jun. So much time having elapsed since that meeting was held, the public have, no doubt, ceased to feel any interest regarding it; we shall, therefore, confine our observations to the smallest possible space, and notice only such statements as we know to be positively untrue.

We have asserted that Mr. Leslie's report is incorrect, inasmuch as it does not give all the facts connected with the riotous proceedings of the meeting; and while it attempts in one place, to gloss over the violence of the rioters, it exaggerates their ruffianly conduct—bad enough as it was—in another place. We make the following extract, in order to point out the errors it contains:—

"The chairman then asked if any elector present wished to address the meeting. J. Flynn, Esq., then took the platform, and introduced the Hon. E. Whelan, who would explain to the meeting the general policy of the present Government. A dispute arose as to the right of a non-elect, not being a candidate, speaking at such a meeting. Several gentlemen, both Conservatives as well as Liberals, waiving the right, endeavoured to get him a hearing, without effect. The question being put from the chair, a show of hands was evidently against Mr. Whelan. The chairman, wishing to give him an opportunity of speaking, addressed the meeting and again put the question, when there seemed to be a majority in favour of Mr. Whelan being heard. On Mr. Whelan ascending the platform, the hubbub became so great that all order was lost, when some riotous and improper proceedings took place, during which the chair on which the hon. gentleman stood was pulled from under him several times, and a shower of potatoes and eggs flying around him. The tumult, which continued half an hour, was quieted chiefly through the praiseworthy efforts of Hons. J. Dingwell and D. Beaton, C. McEachern, M. McWade, D. Flynn and J. McDonald, Esqrs. Order being restored, the hon. gentleman addressed the meeting, expressing his surprise at the conduct of the people, explaining and defending in his usual eloquent style the policy of the present Government."

According to this statement there was at one moment a majority against Mr. Whelan addressing the meeting, and the next, the majority went the other way. Now, this is not correct. There were about 200 persons assembled on the occasion referred to. Not over 40 or 50 disgraced themselves by their riotous and tumultuous conduct,—the others, numbering from 240 to 250 or thereabouts, when the question was twice put, as to whether Mr. Whelan should speak, decided in the affirmative.

The next statement, as to the chair having been pulled from under Mr. Whelan several times, is not true. That brave act was accomplished only once, and the hero could not have then succeeded, had he not sneaked behind the crowd, and pushed his way, unperceived, to where the chair stood. It is frequently the case that the most desperate lunatics unite the deepest cunning with the most violent propensities of insanity.

The story about the "shower of potatoes and eggs," is also incorrect. We understand the blackguards stole a few potatoes from Mr. McGee's house, two of which only they had the courage to fire, aiming their shots at Mr. W.'s face; but as for the eggs, they were not to be seen; had there been any such things within the thievish grasp of the hungry-looking set who figured in the row, they would have much sooner given them a passage down their own throats, sound or unsound, than have fired them at the person of another.

Mr. Leslie's report gives the Hon. James Dingwell credit, amongst others, for his efforts to preserve order and decorum; but it does not mention that Mr. Dingwell succeeded in seizing a lot of murderous bludgeons that had been prepared and secreted for the occasion. There is no doubt that the intended assassins prepared those weapons with the concealment, or at the instigation of the ringleaders of the riot. Last week we gave the names of these ringleaders, and we shall not hesitate, on every opportunity, to make their improper conduct as widely known as possible.

We stated before that the Messrs. John and William Macgowan, (particularly the latter), and Messrs. McEachern and Campion, had conducted themselves in such a manner as to reflect the most indelible disgrace upon men even of the worst description of character; but when we know that three out of the four hold Her Majesty's Commission of the Peace, their conduct appears doubly reprehensible. They were sworn to preserve the peace; but from the hour the people began to assemble at Souris, on the 22d May, down to the time the row occurred, when they were in the midst of it, their insulting, false and violent language towards every individual who opposed them, seemed used for the express purpose of creating a disturbance. One of them insulted Mr. W. on the highway, before he reached Souris, in the most ruffianly manner, without one word of provocation from him; and he had scarcely arrived at the place of meeting before he was again set upon by the same individual and another, in a fiendish style. If Mr. Alex. Leslie's report had been a faithful one, it would have held up to just reprobation the individuals to whom we

refer, as being the instigators of the disgraceful row, the existence of which the report fully admits; but they may rest assured that Mr. Leslie's silence shall not protect them from the odium they have merited. They, forsooth, pretend to be lovers of British constitutional freedom! They claim and exercise the assumed right to attack the private and public character of their opponents—to defame and libel them with all the virulence and malignity which their depraved natures can suggest; and, to give an example of the moral cowardice which inherently belongs to such characters, they get up a ruffianly row to prevent the accused from being heard in his own defence, on the contemptible plea that he is not a voter in, or a resident of, the district! Was Ephraim Reid a resident of, or a voter in, Charlottetown, when he came here a few weeks ago to give his opinions on our political affairs? Was Mr. Edward Palmer a voter in Georgetown when he went there, a short time after, to do precisely the same thing? Both these gentlemen were very properly allowed the utmost freedom of discussion, and courteously listened to; but the notion of free discussion amongst the Tories of Souris is, to talk themselves until they are hoarse, without troubling themselves with any scruples regarding the truth or decency of their talk; and when any person has the boldness to expose their falsehoods, to deny him the constitutional right to speak in his own defence, and get up a row to enforce the denial.

We are very much mistaken if the Souris row does not materially serve the cause of the Liberal party at the forthcoming election for the first district. In their best of days the Messrs. McGowan had very little influence. As their behaviour provoked a cry of Shame! even from their intimate friends at the public meeting on the 22nd ult., we need entertain no apprehension regarding the position they can now give to the return of the two Liberal candidates—Messrs. Knight and Beaton. They pretend not to be unfavorable to the former—for the best of all reasons: they know it is not in their power, nor in that of any of their gang, to prevent the return of this gentleman as a supporter of the present Government. As for Messrs. McEachern and Campion, the sooner they are delivered over to the safe keeping of Sergeant Mitchell, at the Asylum, the better it will be for themselves and the community at large.

THE PROTECTOR'S FINANCIAL REMEDIES.

THE Sanctified Press, which, it was said, at the outset of its career, would not soil its sacred pages in the mire of political discussion, bids fair to distance its cotemporary the *Islander* by the rancour and extravagance of its appeals on behalf of the Tories, and the recklessness of its assertions. With a bible in one hand and a bludgeon in the other, it seems anxious, like a big bully, to rush wherever there is a chance of a free fight; and while breaking the bones of his victims with the one, pretends to be very desirous of healing the wounds of the spirit with the other.

The last No. of the pious and non-political journal gives the astute views of its truth-loving editor as to the best method of saving Prince Edward Island from its financial embarrassments. It insinuates that the present depressed state of our commercial affairs is owing to the want of economy and prudence on the part of the Government—that the members of the Government have shown no business tact and financial ability—that the resources of the country have not been developed—that the revenue has been imprudently expended, and the country involved in debt, &c. &c. Now, then, he asks: "How shall we regain and increase our prosperity?" He does not give the answer directly, but we can easily perceive that the answer which he wishes to convey, is—"Bring the Tories into power again, and all will be right."

He recommends a further development of our Agricultural and Fishery resources. The Liberals have been trying for years to convert the leasehold tenures of the Island into freehold ones, by the most equitable means that could be devised, under which alone Agriculture can flourish. But the patrons and supporters of the *Protector* have thwarted their efforts in this direction. The Liberals have also sought to give the most ample encouragement to the Fisheries; first, by rendering them available to the use of Americans, who might be, and have been in some instances, induced to settle amongst us, to spend their money here, to give lucrative employment to our own people, and to teach them the individual profit and great public advantage of prosecuting the Fisheries on a more extensive scale than they have hitherto done;—and, secondly, by endeavouring to wrest from the grasp of the proprietors the Reserves originally set apart for the purposes of a free fishery. In this the Liberals have also been opposed by the friends and patrons of the *Protector*.

Having indulged in eun dry platitudes on topics he evidently does not understand—not forgetting to blow out his indignation about the "accursed trade in whiskey," which would never be mentioned if Mr. Coles had nothing to do with the Government—the pious and benevolent editor of the non-political *Protector* recommends two other projects for relieving the country. The first is, that two or three of the public offices shall be merged into one; and the second, that the poor of the country may be left to starve and die without a shilling of relief from the Legislature.

As to the union of offices in one individual, that was one of the fruits of the old Family Compact rule, against which the people long ago steadily set their faces. It might be very convenient for themselves to revive the practice, if the Tories came back to power; but the Liberals are not likely to follow their bad example in this respect. The whole of the salaries now paid to the principal officers in the Colonial Building amount to a little over £2,500—which is the smallest Civil List charge in any of Her Majesty's North American Colonies; and the salary to each individual officer would be deemed a small allowance to a confidential clerk in a large commercial establishment. If the whole £2,500 were set aside, and all the public duties of all the public offices done for nothing, we cannot see that such cheese-paring would rescue the country from the "utter bankruptcy" in which it is said to be engulfed.

As for the relief that is doled out to the poor, shivering, wretched objects of humanity, amongst a population of 80,000 or 90,000 inhabitants, it has never exceeded £650. Suppose we turn a deaf ear to the supplications of the poor—let the lame, the blind and the halt, the idiot and the lunatic, grovel and die in their misery, as the pious and charitable *Protector* wants the Government to do, without stretching forth a hand to alleviate their sufferings—would the country be enriched by such pitiful and narrow-souled economy? No; but private benevolence would have to be taxed to make up for the public

stinginess. God help the poor, if the model christians of the *Christian Witness* had the power to tighten the public purse-strings, and to turn away from the people's star, with a scowl or a hypocritical cant about religion, the starving wretch who cried for the means of buying a crust of bread!

GOING TO PERDITION BY PROXY.

We select the following choice passage from a communication in the last *Protector*, over the signature of "Philo Fortunatus," as a fair specimen of the intellectual garbage served out weekly to the readers of that pious sheet, for no other purpose than to outrage the feelings of their Roman Catholic fellow-colonists, and to excite distrust and hatred of them in the breasts of well-meaning but easily duped Protestants, with the view of serving the cause of Toryism and intolerance. We might make more than one such selection from the letter in question, in which the writer has given the most undoubted proofs of his mendacity and stupidity; but in this extract the author appears to have taxed his invention to produce such a lie as would throw the exploits of Maa-chausen into the shade:—

"THE CHURCH OF ROME MAKES HERSELF THE SAVIOUR, INSTEAD OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.—In proof of this assertion, let me point to the case of the Duke of Brunswick. The priests blasphemously told him, on his death bed, that if he embraced the doctrines of the papal Church, he would be saved. When he hesitated, they said—'We pledge ourselves to suffer eternal perdition in your stead, if you should be lost by joining the communion of Rome.' As every one of us must give an account of himself to God, the offer was a moral impossibility; but it proves that Romish priests substitute the Church for Christ."

So earnest are the editorial staff of the pious *Protector* in their efforts to gain a few votes for the Tories at the ensuing election, that we don't doubt but even they would make the offer to go to the devil by proxy, if they thought that they could thereby compass the political destruction of a couple of objectionable Liberal candidates. We only hope, however, that if ever so well inclined for a trip to the lower regions, they will become better men and more sincere Christians than they are, and not give any of Beelzebub's imps the satisfaction of stirring them up with a long pole.

THE ETHEL.

This fine vessel, built by Messrs. Duncan, Mason & Co., of this city, was launched on Saturday, the 29th ult. Being the largest vessel ever built on the Island, the event of her launch attracted a great assemblage of spectators, and we are happy to say that the majestic style in which the huge mass started, and entered her destined element, amply compensated the crowd for the time they were kept waiting on the Ferry Wharf and "parts adjacent." Owing to her great size, she took the ground near the edge of the channel, where she must remain, we are informed, until the next spring tides, when we hope to announce her freedom from her present duress. She is of a somewhat peculiar model, and is built of the best materials throughout, and has been finished with very elaborate care in every department. She is iron-kneed and strapped in frame. We have been favored with the following statement of her dimensions:—Length of keel, 210 feet; depth of hold, 29 feet 1 inch; breadth of beam, 38 feet; length over all, 240 feet. She measures 1755 tons new measurement, is 2700 tons burthen. She is built to class seven years at Lloyd's. If we are to believe the opinions expressed by those more competent than ourselves to sit in judgment on specimens of naval architecture, no vessel has ever left our shores so calculated to reflect credit on her builders as the *Ethel*, to which in her future career we heartily bid God speed.

A notice of the launch of this ship was inserted in our last No., but we regretted to hear, on the morning after publication, that it was entirely erroneous. The lad who brought it to us had the impudence to pass himself off as a clerk in the employ of the owners; and whoever wrote the notice had the meanness and villainy to forge the owners' names to it. The person who could thus combine forgery with falsehood, may fancy that he has done a very clever thing indeed, but we wish him joy of the applause he is likely to receive, even from his own seared conscience, for the contemptible imposition he has practised.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH CANADA.

THE Steamer *Lady Head* has been put upon the route between Quebec and Shediac by the Canadian Government. She arrived at the latter place on Saturday last, after a passage of three days from Quebec. John Daly, Esq., son of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, took passage in her, and arrived here via Westmorland yesterday morning, she having left Shediac about 2 a. m. on Sunday.

It is the intention, we understand, to run the *Lady Head* once a month between Quebec and Shediac, touching at Gaspe, Dalhousie, Bathurst, Chatham, and the intermediate ports; and we have no doubt that the communication thus opened will confer important advantages upon this Colony.

SUPREME COURT.

THE June term for Prince County commenced on Tuesday last and terminated on Thursday—His Lordship the Chief Justice presiding. The criminal business comprised the following cases:—

The Queen vs. Angus McPherson, Roderick McPherson, Neil Gillis and Donald Stewart—Larceny. No bill found against the last two; Roderick McPherson found guilty and sentenced to five months imprisonment, and the first acquitted.

Queen vs. John Thebedeux—Larceny; guilty; four months imprisonment.

Queen vs. Lemang Thebedeux and William Henderson—Larceny, (two indictments); guilty; four months imprisonment.

Queen vs. Cyrus Glover—Larceny; bill found and Bench Warrant issued.

CIVIL BUSINESS.—Isaac Howatt, administrator, vs. Susan Howatt—Trove; verdict for defendant.

There were no fewer than twenty-two appeal cases.

As we are compelled to omit from our present No. several communications of an interesting nature, as well as other articles on local and general subjects, we shall publish a full extra sheet of THE EXAMINER on Thursday morning next, when these articles intended for this week's publication shall appear.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—We have received this admirable periodical for the present month. It is filled, as usual, with original and instructive reading of the best description, and well maintains its character as the best literary monthly serial published in America.