CORRESPONDENCE.

EDUCATION AND THE CHURCH.

No. 5.

(*Continued.*)

To the Editor of the Protestant.

Notwithstanding that you are obliged both by honor and justice to publish the whole of my reply to your unjust attack on St. Dunstan's College and the Popes, yet you have not published the two last letters which I sent you, although you insert weekly in your journal communications against me which appear to be written by some low rabid character who holds the same position in the literary world that a rowdy, blackleg, or pimp does in the social one. The position in which you have placed yourself, is not, in my humble opinion, the most enviable, and is little calculated to raise your character as a gentleman and a Christian in the estimation even of your friends, many of whom will, I think, agree with me in saying that your refusal to insert my communications is rather dishonorable, not to say unchristian. *It is more* than probable that you feel conscious that should you publish all my letters your readers will be convinced of the injustice and malignity of many of the numerous calumnies which have been so often repeated against "Papists," and will consider in its true light the character of the calumniators. As you do not appear to "have leisure to reply" to my communications, perhaps it would be well for you to obtain the assistance of three or four more literary "blacklegs" or "pimps" to abuse "Father Angus" in the most "Evangelical" style of modern times.

If one were to credit certain gentlemen who think to raise themselves by striving to lower their neighbours, he would believe that the Catholic Church has ever labored to keep those within her fold in a state of mental slavery and degradation. In the 'Protestant' of the 25th ult. is published a Report of the "Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute," which says:—"Shall we try to banish them (science and literature)? That would be too much like the Church that holds, that 'ignorance is the mother of devotion;' and then sets forth her Index Expurgatorious, enforcing her expurgations as far as she can."

I have seldom read a calumnious insinuation more barefaced than that which is contained in the above extract. The "Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute" is under the patronage of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, and has connected with it several other gentlemen of high standing in the community, among whom is Professor Inglis, LL. D. It is not surprising that it should be insinuated by "illiterate agitators" of small minds and contracted ideas that the Catholic Church holds that "ignorance is the mother of devotion;" but it is certainly not a little strange that the insinuation should receive the apparent approval of a person whom the public hitherto *regarded* as a gentleman of expanded ideas and extensive information. I would be very sorry to maintain positively that *Dr.* Inglis has endorsed the sentiments of that portion of the Report to which I have alluded, but as he has been for some time one of the office-bearers of the above named Association, I think that, if he does not desire the public to understand that he has endorsed them, he would be only doing an act of justice to his own character to make a public disclaimer thereof.

In my last letter I proved conclusively from the most respectable Protestant authorities that the Catholic clergymen of the "dark ages" did much for Education by copying and collecting books and establishing libraries, in fact that were it not for them the sources of ancient wisdom and learning would have been altogether lost. I presume that had the Popes and other clergymen of the Church acted on the principle that "Ignorance is the mother of devotion," they would not have given themselves as much trouble as they did to preserve books and form libraries. But you may say that the Priests indeed did much to educate themselves, but they did nothing to educate the people, whom they kept in a state of ignorance, in order the better to tyrannize over them. I shall show in this communication that the Church, by the establishment of schools, colleges, and universities, did, even in the "dark ages," for the promotion of learning, much more than her maligners are willing to give her credit for.

Throughout the Christian world during the middle ages the episcopal Sees became the special nurseries of learning. Wherever there was a Cathedral, there also was a school. This was not the effect of chance, but the natural result of the spirit of the Church, which by provincial, national and general Councils encouraged the establishment of schools for the rich and poor. I shall refer to a few only of the numerous decrees of Councils on this subject.

In the year 800 it was enacted by the Council of Orleans that the clergy should erect schools in towns and villages for the elementary education of children. "Let them receive," says this Council, "and teach these little children with the utmost charity, that they themselves may shine like stars forever. Let them receive no remuneration from their schools, unless what the parents, through charity, may voluntarily offer." (See Council Aurelian. An. 800, Can. xx.)

The Council of Mayence, in 813, ordered priests to admonish the parents under their charge regarding the duty of sending their children to the schools established, "either in the monasteries, or in the houses of the parochial clergy." (Concil. Moguntinum, Can. x.)

Temporal princes aided the ecclesiastical authorities in carrying into effect the benign intentions of the Church, for we read in history that Charlemange, in one of his Capitulars, ordered schools to be erected throughout his vast empire. In England, Alfred the Great enacted laws of a similar nature.

The third general Council of Constantinople, held in the seventh century, commands priests to open schools in country places and to receive gratuitously all those who could be induced to frequent them.

The third general Council of Lateran, convened in 1179 by Alexander III. passed the following canon:—"Since the Church of God, like a tender mother, is bound to provide for the poor, both in these things which appertain to the aid of the body and in those which belong to the advancement of the soul: lest the opportunity for such improvement should be wanting to those poor persons who cannot be aided by the wealth of their parents; let a competent benefice be assigned in each cathedral church to a teacher, whose duty it shall be to teach the clerks and poor scholars of the same church gratuitously; by which means the necessity of the teacher may be relieved, and the way to instruction may be opened to learners. Let this practice be also restored in other churches and monasteries, if in times past, anything was set apart in them for this purpose." (See Labassutius, Notitia Concil in locum.) This decree was renewed in 1215 by Innocent III., who extended the law to parish churches. Thus it appears that the system of Education which obtained in the days of "Popish ignorance and superstition" was much more entitled to the name of FREE than that which now exists in this colony.

It would be too tedious to enter into particulars regarding the almost innumerable schools which were opened by monks, particularly by the Franciscans, Dominicans and Benedictines whose services to literature cannot be overestimated. Hallam bestows on the cathedral and conventual schools of the middle ages the following qualified praise:—"The praise of having originally established schools belongs to some bishops and abbots of the sixth century. They came in place of the imperial schools overthrown by the barbarians. In the downfall of that temporal dominion, a spiritual aristocracy was providentially raised up, to save from extinction the remains of learning and of religion itself. Some of these schools seem to have been preserved in the south of Italy, though merely, perhaps, for elementary instruction. The cathedral and conventual schools, erected or restored by Charlemange, became the means of preserving the small portion of learning which continued to exist. They flourished most, having had time to produce their fruits, under his successors, Louis the Debonair, Lothaire and Charles the Bald." (Introduction to Lit., &c., I, 27.)

Meibon, another Protestant historian, tells us that "During the age of the Charleses, of the Othos, and of the Henrys, the children of kings and dukes were placed at a tender age in the schools of the canons and of the monks, that they might acquire a knowledge of the liberal arts, and of the languages." (See Ziegelbauer Opp. Tom. I.)

The nunneries did for the girls that which the monastic, cathedral and parochial schools did for the boys, and thus provision was made by the Church for the education of children of both sexes. The Latin language was studied and well understood, not only by many of the religious ladies of the convents, but also by many of the ladies of the world, who often wrote and received letters in that language. In the tenth century Hrosweths, a nun of Grandersheim, wrote Latin poems, still extant, on the foundation of her convent, and on the life of Otho the Great, and also six dramas on ecclesiastical history. (See Annales de la Philosophie Chretiennes.) St. Gertrude of Saxony wrote in Latin some pious historical works (Insinuations D. Pietatis). The abbess Herrada of Alsace wrote in the same language an extensive Encyclopædia (Hortus deliciarum) which is still preserved. We are informed by the author of the "Anglo Saxon Church," on the authority of the Venerable Bede, that the Anglo-Saxon clergy of all ranks exerted themselves in the cause of literature in the most laudable manner, and that "their exhortations and example excited an ardour for improvement which was not confined to the cloister, but extended its influence to the castles of the nobility, and the courts of kings. The children of the thanes educated in the neighbouring monasteries, imbibed an early respect, if not a passion for literature; and several of the princes condescended to study those sciences on which their barbarous, but victorious fathers, had trampled with contempt; others by rewards and donations endeavoured to distinguish themselves as the patrons of the learned. (Bed. Hist. l. iv. 2. Albat. Wirem. p. 300.) "Even the women caught the general enthusiasm: seminaries of learning were established in their convents: they conversed with their absent friends in the language of ancient Rome (what many of their revilers cannot do at the present day); and frequently exchanged the labors of the distaff and the needle for the more pleasing and more elegant beauties of the Latin poets. St. Aldhelm wrote his treatise De laudibus Virginitatis, for the use of the Abbess Hildelitt and her nuns. The style in which it is composed shows that if he wished them to understand it, he must have considered them as no mean proficients in the Latin language. From this treatise we learn that nuns were accustomed to read the Pentateuch, the books of the Prophets and the New Testament, with the commentaries of the ancient fathers: and to study the historical, tropological, allegorical, and anagogical senses of the different passages; profane history, chronology, grammar, orthography and poetry, also employed their attention. St. Aldhel. de laude Virg. p. 294. The lives of St. Willibald and St. Wunebald were both written in Latin by an Anglo-Saxon nun. Several letters in the same language, written by English ladies, are preserved among the epistles of St. Boniface. In some of them are allusions to the Roman poets; and in one, a few verses composed by Leobgytha, who was then learning the rules of metre from her mistress, Eadburga. Ep. Bonif. 36. p 46. (Antiq. Ang. Sax. Church, pp. 189 & 190.) For further interesting details regarding the learned females of the middle ages, I may refer you to the 6th art. of the Ann. de la Philosop. Chret.

Whilst writing of the schools of the middle ages, I may add the just observations of a recent American writer, who says that Ireland took a prominent part "in the cultivation and promotion of literature. From the middle of the fifth to the middle of the eighth century she carried on what might be called a crusade of learning throughout all Europe. While the tide of barbarian invasion was rushing over the continent, burying under its turbid waves the relics of ancient literature and civilization, the Emerald Isle was devoting the repose which Providence then granted her to the practice of religion, the founding of schools, and the cultivation of letters, both sacred and profane. To give one instance of the flourishing condition of her institutions of learning during the period in question, it is well known, that the monastery of Benchor, or Bangor, contained no fewer than three thousand monks, besides scholars innumerable. Fired with enthusiasm, Irishmen visited almost every country in Europe, leaving behind them splendid institutions of learning and religion. Irishmen established the monastery and school of Lindisforne, in England, of Bobbio, in Italy, of Verdien, in France, and of Wartzburg, Ratisbon, Erfurth, Cologne and Vienna in Germany." (Spal. Mis.) For further particulars on this subject you may read Annal. de la Philos. Chret. 7.

One of the causes which contributed most to the developement of the mind was the creation of great centres of instruction, whence the light of science was diffused over modern Europe. All the celebrated European Universities were founded in the middle ages by Popes, bishops, and religious princes, and many of these educational establishments, such as those of Rome, Bologna, Padua, Naples, Pavia, Pisa, Salamanca, Valladolid, Valencia, Alcala, Paris, Louvain, &c., &c., &c., relied on some papal document for their prerogatives. Boniface VIII. opened a university at Fermo; Clement V. opened one at Perugia; and Boniface IX. another at Ferrara. Many of the colleges attached to the universities of Europe were founded by Catholic clergymen in the "dark ages." History tells us that Pope Urbain V. supported more than a thousand students at various universities, and even supplied them with books (See Spal. Mis. p. 129). It is almost unnecessary for me to remind you that the two great English Universities, Oxford and Cambridge, were established by "Papists" in the "dark ages," and that all the halls, and twelve of the twenty colleges of the former, and twelve of the seventeen colleges of the latter, were founded before the so-called Reformation.

Let it be remembered that many of the great universities which I have mentioned were frequented not by hundreds, nor by thousands, but by tens of thousands of students from every part of Europe. We learn from Anthony Wood, the Protestant historian of the University of Oxford, that, during the reign of Henry II. this celebrated institution counted thirty thousand students!

It is quite unnecessary, at the present time, to enter into further details regarding the encouragement given by the Church to Education. I have proved most conclusively that clergymen of the Catholic Church, did, even in the middle ages, exert themselves in the most praiseworthy manner to preserve and promote learning by every possible means. Catholic clergymen copied and collected books, established libraries, founded schools, colleges and universities, many of which are supported at this day by the munificent legacies left by Popes, bishops and kings, who desired no recompense but the smiling approval of Heaven, and who are now sneered at for being ignorant and superstitious by self-sufficient, self-sanctified, long-visaged "illiterate agitators," who would fain make others believe that they are honoring God whilst vilifying those who ever served Him in charity and truth.

For the last three hundred years history has been one huge plot against truth, and by the frequent repetition of lies has made that which was true appear false, and that which was false appear true. I am aware that in consequence of this being the case, many of the facts which I have brought forward are not in accordance with what you have been taught to believe from your infancy; yet I trust that now you will candidly admit that the Church has not been that tyrannical enemy of intellectual culture which she has often been represented. If you do not do this, but choose rather to be influenced by the prejudices which you imbibed with your mother's milk, I entertain the hope that the additional facts which I shall hereafter bring forward will convince you that whatever has been said of the tendency of the Catholic Church to enslave and hoodwink the mind is but calumny. "That which is born of light cannot produce darkness; that which is the work of truth itself need not fly from the sun's rays to conceal itself in the bowels of the earth. The daughter of heaven may walk in the brightness of day, may dare discussion, may gather around her all the brightest intellects, well assured that the more closely and attentively they see and contemplate her, the more pure, the more beauteous and enrapturing will she appear.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient and humble servant,

A. McDONALD.

St. Dunstan's College, Feb. 12, 1862.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

This morning a round dozen of Legislators from the city and distant counties leave for the capital to inaugurate on the morrow the new Parliament. Some remarkable features will attend the present convention of Representatives, the foremost of which will be the large proportion of new and untried members—some of whom are quite youthful; the absence of the Conservative leaders; and the anomalous situation of Mr. Fisher. What course this poor man will pursue is beyond fair conjecture; with the Government it can hardly, according to the doctrine of political ethics, be expected that he will work and act. And if he support the opposition he will do so at the sacrifice of his declared principles, and under the stigma of renegade. This last course I believe he will not adopt, and evidence of it will first be disclosed at the election of Speaker, or more probably in considering the answer to the Governor's Speech.

The Government boast of having seven of a majority after making a present of three or four to the opposition, but I doubt the correctness of the reasoning upon which this calculation is based. Ere a week goes by we shall have a pretty accurate knowledge of the relative strength of the two sides.

Two subjects were brought before the consideration of the Council last week. One was Mr. Tilley's report of his Delegation to England, and which, it is supposed, falls far short of the expectations that were entertained respecting it some weeks previous to his return. This account of his proceedings was exclusive of the pedantic orations he made to Manchester audiences, upon the invincible barriers which the Sons of Temperance here were ready to make to an assailing foe. To other subject for the dissection of the men of state would be that periodical formula the Governor's Speech, which no to-morrow's sun shall have touched the western horizon, will have assumed typographical proportions. Wilmot and Gray—the two principal chiefs of the Conservative party—having been kindly appointed to manage the Home Department, their former compeers, while lamenting this promotion, are left to regret the absence of such well disciplined superiors, and to make the best of a bad cause in devising expedients to embarrass the Government. Poor Mr. Gray, I am really sorry for his situation. Possessed of commanding talents and gentlemanly deportment, he was well qualified to take part in measures of parliamentary discussion; and oft has he made those halls from which he has been driven ring with the echo of his chaste and fluent eloquence. He bears his fate with cheerfulness and fortitude becoming an unsuccessful but honorable rival for the reward which it was his object to attain.

There are three new members for this County and City—Anglin, Skinner, and Jordan. The first named will, most assuredly, make a stand in the Assembly at once independent and brilliant. With a scrutinizing eye will he watch the doings of the Government, and if Mr. Tilley's well arranged stratagems escape from exposure he shall have reason to deem himself one of the best Provincial *diplomatists*.

Skinner is a mere boy in appearance, and lacks that degree of physique which people delight to behold in their chosen representative. He is not, however, without some fitting qualifications for entering upon his new career, and by guarding well his entrance into the lottery of politics, success will attend his early ambition. Being a Barrister of growing importance, and withal as shrewd as a Philadelphia lawyer, he is likely to evince considerable tact in the Legislature, if the practice of *his profession has not circumscribed his intellect*, the dread of which seemed to have prevailed upon Henry Grattan to abandon its arbitrary and stern realities. Mr. Skinner has acquired that monotonous style of oratory that emanated from the "Division Room," and the pulpits of a modern religious denomination, a small quantity of which suffices for the taste of a promiscuous audience.

As for the other members for the County—Tilley, Watters, Cudlip and Jordan, they are well schooled in political education, thoroughly hackneyed in the ways of men; and have long since graduated with the honors and rewards which a successful conflict for place and emolument was competent to confer. Tilley is the first champion for the order of the Sons of Temperance in New Brunswick; and the advocacy of the cold water principle has won for him a provincial celebrity, and assisted materially in elevating him to the first office in the *gift* of the Government. To him, too, is due the rare and honorable praise of illustrating his temperance precepts by his own example.

Watters, the witty and facetious Solicitor General, deserves more attention than I can afford to give him in this place. A young widower and the best looking man in the Government, he has many attractions for the fair spectators that throng the galleries of the Legislative halls, looking softly patriotic upon the array of orators to whom are committed the doctrines of the country. This is the gentleman, too, who has been impeached with the interesting misdemeanor of having, by his theological persuasions, succeeded in bringing over a young lady from the church of her forefathers to the possession of what Mr. Watters regards as the saving Catholicity. Was this not cruel in Her Majesty's Solicitor General? Had he made her his bride, then, indeed, there might be some mercy extended to him; but look at the naked fact—you who are parents—and where can he found a justification? Here is a young girl, an only child, fair, lovely, accomplished, induced by a smiling man to forsake the faith of doting parents, and embrace that represented as containing the means of exclusive salvation. But, hold, I must proceed no further in this strain of censure. When I reflect it is not difficult to find considerable palliation for such a provoking encounter; who could resist such a fascinating and romantic an opportunity to add to the true fold? and the occasion of it in the brilliant circle of the ball room. Oh, it must have been delightful to the Solicitor General. A few words will suffice to dispose of Jordan and Cudlip. One is a good sample of the Blue Nose race, and whose squeaking voice causes much merriment in the House of Assembly, especially when he has a cold, and discussing a question in which he has a personal interest. The other is a hardy and unpolished son of Old Scotia, whose unaided industry has placed him in affluent circumstances. They both belong to the class that Dr. Johnson describes as being possessed of "one idea," and were my opinion of any value, I would say that they are more celebrated for silence than rhetoric in their capacity.

P. E. I.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 12, 1862.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

NOTES OF A TRAVELLER.

SIR—Having had occasion lately, while travelling, to stop for some hours at a wayside Inn, during a snow storm, not one hundred miles from Vernon River, I listened with no small share of interest to a conversation which took place between two farmers. The room in which we were located, though of small dimensions, served the purpose of a bar room, refectory and general reception room for visitors of all classes, and hence the ease and freedom of expression of its transitory occupants for the time. The farmers were evidently of an intelligent though unpresuming class; and although I was a stranger to both of them, yet I was not long in deciphering that one was from Belfast and the other from New London, and for the purpose of abbreviation, I shall call the latter N. and the former B., or in plain terms, N. shall represent New London and B. Belfast. It is scarcely necessary to premise that the "Land Question" appeared to be their all-absorbing topic. They were considerably past the meridian of life, to judge from their silvery locks and other indications of hard work in a northern latitude.

N. said—You have been very fortunate on the Belfast property to become freeholders on such easy terms. Would that I had the same thing to say of the New London district.

B. replied—Yes, but if the stupid tenants had followed my advice we would have been freeholders many years ago; but while times were good and lumbering and shipbuilding brisk, many of them continued to pay rent by selling the timber from off their farms, often not leaving themselves enough of some kinds for domestic purposes, which only encouraged the rapacity of the usurping proprietor and his greedy cormorant of an agent in the expectation that all the tenants would finally consent to pay rents for the lands which their own hard labour reclaimed from the wilderness. For my own part, continued B., I was fool enough to purchase a farm on the Selkirk Estate before I left Scotland, but seeing how matters stood some time after my arrival, I verbally routed two other farms contiguous to the one I purchased. I was not, however, fool enough to pay a penny rent for either to the present day. Some few others followed my example, and they have now got the freehold of their farms for less than one-half the nominal arrears of rent due or claimed at the time of the transfer of it to the Government. And if all the tenants on the other Township lands had neglected or refused to pay rents, the same as I did, the pretended owners or proprietors would be equally willing to sell on as easy terms as did the Earl of Selkirk.

N. Then you think it was because the Belfast tenantry in general did not pay up their rents that the property was sold so cheap?

B. Most certainly. The arrears of rent claimed and given up with the property were nearly three times the amount for which the whole of the land was sold; and I am sure you would not think that any land claimant or agent would sell out for ever for seven or eight thousand pounds a property from which he claimed some £20,000 arrears of rent, besides an annual rent claim of nearly £2000. No, no; it was because the rents were not paid, and because the title to the land would most probably prove defective if an honest enquiry were held on its investigation, and hence the haste to get something for it; and so it was with the proprietary claimant on Lot 54, to which he had no more honest claim than you had; and if the Land Commission, which has made so much noise amongst us had been properly directed by our Government, and requested to examine into the original titles to the Township lands and pronounce for Escheat, or otherwise, according to circumstances, more than three-fourths of the Township usurpers would be too happy to sell for whatever they could get, as they dare not go to an investigation, by which they know well that they would not only lose their pretended claims to the lands, but would also have their diabolical machinations exposed, and prove them fit subjects for the gibbet.

N. Then would you advise us New Londoners as well as the other tenantry throughout the Island not to pay any more rents until we get our farms on as good terms as the Belfast tenants got theirs from the Government?

B. I don't advise you to anything, I only say that which I believe to be a fact, that if rents be not paid, the lands will be useless to the Proprietary claimants, and therefore what becomes valueless is ways easily purchased, because whatever arises from the sale thereof is so much gain to the seller. Suppose we had a Government free from proprietary influences, either as Land claimants themselves, or as agents for such—would they not at once write a circular to the Land usurpers, and inform them that they (the Government) have settled some of the best lands on the Island, by selling them to the actual tenant thereon at ten shillings, eight shillings, and six shillings respectively per acre, according to quality and location, and therefore that no proprietor or owner or claimer of land ought, or should ask more than these rates, which would at once satisfy the tenantry; and that if they did not adopt that or such a measure, that there is no means in the Island to enforce payments of rents from reluctant tenants.

N. But did not you Belfasters, in an address to Governor Dundas, some time ago, offer your services to help him to collect rents from the poor tenants in other parts of the Island?

B. That is all false, we never thought of such a thing. That address was manipulated by little Coroner Sandy, and a certain minister, who crammed any words they pleased into it, and not five persons out of every one hundred whose names were placed to that document either knew or cared what language was made use of therein. I am quite surprised that you or any honest man could form so disrespectable an opinion of the Belfasters; that after having suffered all the privations of immigrant life in the desolate wilderness for so many years, we should, on the day of achieving our independence from the rigorous trammels of landlordism, become at once worse than savages or Turks to ferociously offer our services to help the villainous land claimants to torture our suffering but unoffending fellow colonists of other settlements, who may earnestly endeavour to accomplish their freedom as well as ourselves. I have no ill-will to the Government; I wish them well; but I regret that they so desperately cling to the interests of the proprietary claimants. I don't see how it is possible for them to expect support at the next Election from those tenants whom they now try to induce to be satisfied with the Land Commissioners' report, which would compel the unfortunates to pay more than double the prices at which the best lands on the Worrell or Selkirk Estates have been sold for. If those lands had been worth more, the Government had a right to charge more for them. Then what right has Mr. Deblois, Mr. Haviland, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pope, Mr. Yeo, or any others of the Government to demand more for other lands than those which belonged to the Government have been sold for? Echo answers What? and the tenants also answer What?

(To be continued in the next Examiner.)

FOR THE EXAMINER.

MORAL LEPERS.

MR. WHELAN—SIR—A good deal has been written in several papers about "Dreamer's" dream, and the reason is because the dream was too true. It would have been much more prudent for the 'Islander' to be silent on the matter.

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J. B. Cooper turning moralist! You have given this man a well merited castigation for immorality, said, if I mistake not, to have been practised against his mother. The 'Monitor' of the 4th inst. has an extract which is filthy and obscene in its sentiments, and which must be the production of a person very loathsome and immoral in his character. I would think that a man who would print such an extract must be an impure wretch, lost to all sense of moral decency. The bitterest enemies of Pius IX., with the exception of those outcasts of society who have lost all sense of shame, and who spend most of their time in stews and brothels, however much they condemn his political acts, give him credit for all the moral virtues which can adorn the Christian. This being the case, the man who could place before his readers such an extract as did J. B. Cooper last week about the Pope, should be looked upon not only as infamously uncharitable, but as an unchaste, beastly fellow, who should be shunned by all decent people as a piece of moral filth. I understand that this man Cooper goes to the Levee at Government House sometimes. I don't know if he has the consummate impudence to visit Lady Dundas, but there is one thing I know, and it is this, if I were Governor Dundas, or Mr. Atkinson, and if a nasty, filthy fellow, who would print anything like what appeared in last week's 'Monitor,' should presume to come about Government House premises, I would take him by the scruff of the neck and give him a cowhiding that would teach him not to print any more filth for a while. It is to put decent people on their guard against "moral lepers" that you have been troubled with this short epistle from

CAVE.

MR. WHELAN—SIR—I beg to hand you the following extract from the *Sunderland Herald* of the 24th January last:—

"We are rejoiced to hear of the safe arrival of the Parana (with the Scotch Fusileers on board) at Sydney, C. B., on the 6th, two days after the date of her reported loss in the St. Lawrence. Nothing can be more admirable than the tone and spirit of the whole population of British America. The French *habitans* and the Irish immigrants, Protestants and Catholics, Orangemen and Peep-o'-day Boys, vie with each other in expressions and acts of loyalty; and, if ever the North should venture to invade Canada, it will be encountered by a population as united and loyal, by good government and sound institutions, as if they had never been split into factions and arrayed against each other in civil war. Nothing has so much surprised the North as this loyalty of both Canadas. The work of housing the troops already arrived in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Canada, is going on admirably and actively. Defences are being everywhere raised or strengthened on the frontier, and at Montreal, at the locks of the canals, and the bridges of the railways. The Militia are in active drill, and the Volunteers, growing into a large and effective force under their natural leaders, and with the aid both of the many retired soldiers settled in our North American territories, and by the officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, sent out for that purpose."

There is no doubt that the Canadian Press, Clergy, and Government have materially aided in disseminating the spirit of unity above referred to. How honourably this contrasts with the majority of our Island press, namely, the 'Islander,' 'Monitor,' and even that professedly sanctified paper the 'Protestant,' the sole object of whose respective editors is to sow discord and fan up revenge between the Protestant and Catholic portions of this Island, at a time when, in the defence of our hearths and our families, they should strain every nerve to create peace and unity. I question whether the Colonial Secretary of the Canadian Government is guilty of acting either as the editor of a newspaper or as the avowed mover of the worst motives among men, as our Colonial Secretary is chargeable with; and I should like to know if, in making up the Blue Book, our Secretary gives a full and explicit statement of the iniquitous part he acts in this Colony, which our Government tacitly acquiesces in!

Yours,

Z. X. Y.

Charlottetown, February 14, 1862.

"KISSING GOES BY FAVOUR."

MR. WHELAN—SIR,—I thought the system of favoritism in the British service was among the things which have been; if so, can you tell why it is continued in this portion of the British possessions among the Volunteers?

Ross's last 'Weekly' announces that His Excellency has been pleased to sanction the following appointments in the Prince of Wales' Rifle Company, viz:—John Robins to be Lieutenant, vice W. E. Dawson, resigned; James Peake to be Ensign, vice Robins, promoted! I admit that Master Peake is a native of this Island, is in the prosnect of being wealthy, and that if he felt disposed to join the Volunteers, is perfectly at liberty to do so; but I contend, under the present rule in the British army, that promotion shall be in accordance with merit!" No power on this Island has a right to place Master Peake among the Volunteers where he now stands! He might have been commissioned in the Queen's County Militia, either as an Ensign, a Lieutenant or a Captain, but among us he has no right to be taken from outside, and passed over the heads of Privates, Corporals and Sergeants, who have for months been drilling and preparing themselves for the hour of duty! Has Master Peake been drilling or practising? Does his uniform bear the marks of either a Sergeant or a Corporal? Then what merit is he the performer of which should authorise him to be lifted above his seniors in duty and drill? Had he been here at the formation of the Company, and then selected to take his present rank, it is not probable I should have called your attention to the matter; nor is it now done because I belong to that Company. Far from it, it is the principle that I look at, which if quietly allowed to pass in one company, may be extended through every Volunteer Company on the Island.

I may be told that the Prince of Wales Company unanimously voted Master Peake to be Ensign. If so, I can only say that I am happy in not belonging to so slavish a body of men who would prefer placing a person who has never had the honor of being a full private in advance of some of their own men who have merited promotion! I cannot, however, believe the Company would be guilty of such injustice, but think it has been viewed by our Government in the light that wealth, either in prospective or possession should always predominate, whether its possessor or anticipator be a wise man or a fool—a person of discretion and experience, or a beardless boy; in short, that MIGHT should take the place of RIGHT!!

Yours,

A VOLUNTEER.

Ch. Town, Feb. 14, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—In your edition of the 10th inst. there is a letter signed "Robt. A. Fellowes," stating that the Grand Jury on the 13th January last sent down a "Presentment" against me, by which I am accused of no less a crime than that of embezzlement. Mr. F. also states that although I was prepared there and then to go into the merits of the case, the Attorney General—owing to a press of business—had no time to file a Bill of Indictment to send up to the Grand Jury before the Court rose, &c., &c. Mr. Fellowes then goes on to say that the Attorney General applied to the Judges for an order to compel me to find good and sufficient bail for my appearance in the June Court, which they refused to do, considering, I presume, that under the circumstances my own recognizance was sufficient. Mr. Fellowes appears very much alarmed that on account of the conduct of the Judges in this matter, the Commercial world and society generally may be placed in a dreadful predicament. While finding fault with the conduct of the Judges, I think Mr. F. might safely have given a little advice in another quarter, and cautioned Grand Jurors against being too easily biassed by one-sided representations—that they should enquire into the character of the parties, their antecedents, and whether or not anything had been done in the matter previously (as in this case had been and rejected) before they sully the name of any one by finding a Presentment; I am, however, not in a position to blame the late Grand Jury, being quite ignorant of the specific charges brought against me by Mr. F., who has hitherto proved himself a man not to stick at trifles to gain his end, as I will presently *satisfactorily* show.

Had the Judges ordered me to find other bail than my own, I would have done my best to procure it, had I failed in doing so, I had the pleasant alternative of going to jail for six months, which I am prone to believe was the most anxious wish of my esteemed friend!

Before proceeding further, I will take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Fellowes for giving publicity to this subject, as it affords me an opportunity of correcting and confirming many erroneous reports in circulation.

The "Agricultural Warehouse" had been open some four or five months previous to Mr. Fellowes taking an interest in the business by advancing money to purchase stock in England and the States, and I took the position of managing partner, everything being bought and sold in my name; Mr. F. came occasionally to the store after he joined in the business, but latterly he seemed to avoid it and took no interest in what was going on—leaving the entire management to myself. The books, invoices, &c., were open to Mr. Fellowes at all times.

* * * The business went on increasing and I was getting into some good agencies, and looked forward to an early period when I might not only make a good living for myself, but ultimately be of great service to Mr. Fellowes. Everything, however, was brought to a stand, without a moment's warning, constables being put in charge at his instance; I was, of course, very much surprised, hardly knowing what to do; I, however, told Mr. Desbrisay what was going on. He came into the store, and looked at the instructions given to the constables, who had an indemnity; Mr. Desbrisay was kind enough to say that he would see Mr. Fellowes and ascertain his views. On his return he told me that all Mr. Fellowes wanted was to know how things stood, and that if I would hand over the books to Mr. Desbrisay, and have stock taken for that purpose, an abstract account would be given to each of us and the books returned to Mr. Desbrisay; and that if the business was not found to be in a satisfactory state, or Mr. F. wished to withdraw from the concern, some arrangement might be entered into between us for the future management of the business, which was to be carried on by myself as usual until this was carried out. This investigation I agreed to at once, and there and then handed over to Mr. Desbrisay all the books, invoices, &c., belonging to the business. Surely, then had there been any attempt on my part to embezzle any of the money in my possession, I would not have acted in this straightforward manner.

While this arrangement was pending Mr. Fellowes, or the constables in his name, again entered the premises, with instructions to remove the goods at once, and if I resisted, to sweep away not only the goods in the store, but my furniture, over which he had had a bill of sale for some years, but for which I never received any consideration! This bill of sale was actually put in force, and had it not been for some kind friends myself and family would have been left for about three weeks of the most piercing weather experienced last winter without a chair to sit upon, a bed to lie upon, or a blanket to cover us! An arrangement was subsequently entered into, and by giving up the stock, as taken by Mr. Muncey, and accounting for the goods sold and money received since proceedings commenced, I got back my furniture in a very dilapidated state, by sending for it.

I soon found that having got hold of the stock and books Mr. F. repudiated payment of the trade accounts, which was part of the agreement, and I had to apply to Mr. Charles Palmer on the part of the creditors, to compel him to do so. After this, my persecution began, by receipt of a summons from the Mayor's Court to attend on the following morning, to reply to a charge of embezzlement brought against me by Mr. Fellowes. I appeared, of course, and after the charge was made and the matter fully gone into, the case was dismissed, there being nothing to prove such a charge either directly or indirectly. After this Mr. Fellowes was cross questioned by Mr. Palmer, who elicited that I was not only managing clerk but had a share in the business.

Shortly after this I was arrested by Mr. Fellowes on a bailable writ for £300, but how he arrived at this exact sum, as being a balance of account due by me to him, I have been unable to find out! I had no alternative but to go to prison, and after spending the usual time necessary to go through the different forms, I was released through the kindness of Messrs. W. B. Dowse and J. C. Hall, who became bail for me—a kindness which I shall never forget. During my incarceration, when not able to protect myself, Mr. ROBERT ALBION FELLOWES, not being satisfied with the rebuff he got at the Mayor's Court, tried the embezzlement dodge again with the Grand Jury, who, being business men, saw at once that the charge was vindictive and frivolous, and dismissed him in a very summary manner. After laying upon his oars for six months he tried the Grand Jury again on the 13th of January last, and by, I presume, a string of false representations, succeeded in getting them to send down a presentment against me, very much to the astonishment of every one.

By these persecutions Mr. Fellowes knows well that he can obtain no pecuniary advantage, so that his sole and entire object is to ruin my credit and beggar my wife and children, and proceeds from a vindictive and malignant feeling perfectly unjustifiable. Had Mr. Fellowes, before commencing proceedings, listened to the impartial advice offered him by a few highly respectable storekeepers in Town, neither of us would have suffered in the estimation of the public. I would have preserved my credit, and he have saved money which he has so foolishly sacrificed.

I am sorry to trespass so long on your patience and that of the public, but have felt compelled to enter into this long explanation in self-defence. I have still a great deal more to say in regard to Mr. Fellowes, but knowing your dislike to personalities, my remarks will appear in a different form.

I am, Sir, your obed't servant,

WM. W. IRVING.

Ch. Town, February 14, 1862.

THE PUBLIC MEETING AT MONTAGUE BRIDGE.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE MEETING.

HON. E. WHELAN—SIR—I hasten to furnish you with a summary report of the sayings and doings of the Meeting at Montague Bridge, on the 10th inst., in order that you may see through the designs of certain interested parties, and enable you to counteract false statements that may come from other quarters.

For more than a week previous to the day of Meeting, a number of Orangemen from Charlottetown have been in this part of the country lecturing small audiences wherever they could be found on what they were pleased to call "Social Progress," which were very offensive and insulting to the common sense of many who went to listen to them. The Rev. D. Fitzgerald delivered one of these lectures at Georgetown, in the course of which he attempted to show that Catholics would assume any form and do any deed to promulgate and propagate Catholicism, and that politics were used by them to promote that design. It was the duty, he said, of every Protestant to become a member of an Orange Lodge—to support the present Government, attend public meetings; and plainly intimated that they should not be very scrupulous of the means to be used at such meetings to carry their own points. Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald, Rev. G. Sutherland, and Mr J. B. Cooper, visited and primed the people for the meeting, particularly the Orangemen, on Douse's Road, Murray Harbour Road, and at New Perth.

Thus encouraged, at about 12 o'clock on the day of meeting a large body of Highlanders from Belfast, Wood Islands, and Douse's Road arrived at Montague Bridge, with a piper at their head, determined to listen to nothing except that which dropped from the lips of those whom their lecturers approved of.

The Liberal Committee of Management were about appointing a Chairman, when a number of the Georgetonians, headed by the gentleman usually styled Parson Rory, rushed into the room appointed for the meeting, and placed Capt. McDonald, of New Perth, in the chair, which movement was supported by the Orange brethren without, thus taking the business of the meeting out of the hands of those who called it. This done, amidst wild yells and rude applause, "Parson Rory" called upon Mr. Manoah Rowe to address the meeting, which he did, telling the assembled crowd that as McAuley and others, who had not originated it, had the effrontery to take the management of the meeting out of the hands of himself and his friends, they might proceed with it as they pleased. He said he had a resolution in his hand to submit to the meeting, which he would propose if they allowed him to do so. He then proceeded to read it, but the Orangemen commenced howling in the most hideous manner, and he could not be heard. "Parson Rory" then presided himself, and addressed the motly group. His speech was a rough patchwork of scraps from English, Scotch and French history. He alluded to the character of Louis XIII—the invasion of the French, the landing of Charles the Pretender, his defeat, &c., without offering the least information or a useful hint respecting our local affairs. He did, indeed, caution his hearers not to listen to the arguments of his political opponents—knowing that neither himself nor his friends could answer them—and this was the only time he seemed to have any consciousness he was addressing a political meeting on the affairs of the Island.

Hon. E. Palmer followed, and spoke in favour of the following resolution:—

"Moved by Mr. John Crawford, seconded by Hon. R. McAulay:—

"*Resolved*, That although the Meeting feels disappointment that the Award of the Land Commissioners has not yet been forwarded to this Colony by Her Majesty's Colonial Minister, they are n