

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MARCH 23, 1857.

THE POLITICO-RELIGIOUS PROTECTOR.

We have no desire to provoke a controversy with our "sanctified" cotemporary—certainly not upon religious grounds—and we have no objection to let the half dozen zealous divines who occupy the chair editorial in succession, fire away their squibs at the religion of their Catholic fellow colonists, confident that, though there may be some noise, there will be no substantial injury effected. But when, in one paper, those pious protectors of the rights of conscience profess to eschew politics, and in another show their readiness to plunge head and heels into the centre of the political cauldron, we think it may not be inappropriate for us, as a political journalist, to notice the slight inconsistency.

In addition to a very generous supply of spiritual instruction, such as the *Protector* can only afford to give—the last No. of that eminently sanctified periodical contains two articles of unmistakable political character. The first is a communication from some unknown genius, who facetiously styles himself "an ardent admirer of Responsible but not Departmental Government," in which we have a very unsavoury rebash of the *Islander's* eulogy on the speech recently delivered by the doating old man who presides over the New Brunswick House of Assembly, in which there was a most absurd and illogical attempt made to show that there could be Responsible Government without the Departmental system. The *Protector's* correspondent—(still copying from the *Islander*)—informs us that the "cry" to exclude office-holders from the House of Assembly, and thereby carry out the views of Mr. Speaker Simmonds, with regard to this Colony, "will be triumphant at the next General Election." We have heard something of the same sort from the editor of the *Islander* at least a hundred times within the last five or six years; but although several elections, both general and partial, have taken place since the prediction was first announced, and intended, of course, to affect the very "next general election" from its first announcement—public opinion, somehow or other, had the hardihood to set itself up in opposition to the dictum of the prophet; and judging from the prevailing tone of that same public opinion—as unchanged as it was in 1851 when it overthrew the enemies of Responsible Government, who would be delighted to keep the public offices for unpopular men who have no chance of getting into the House of Assembly—we are inclined to think that the "triumphant cry" alluded to, will prove to be a rather distant and illusive sound, something like the music of the spheres.

The second article referred to, is a sort of sympathetic whine over the fallen fortunes of Mr. Stark, because that very popular gentleman had been relieved from his official duties a few months sooner than he wished.

In the *Protector* of the week previous we had another political article, purporting to have been written by some "Farmer John," but the paternity of which might be fairly ascribed to "Printer George," or any other nobody, showing the awful enormity of the Government in not throwing the Queen's Printers open to public competition. Of course it was a heinous sin, and a great invasion of the rights of conscience, to confer that office on a Liberal, and still worse, "a Papist." There was no injustice done, and no harm done, while the office was held by a good old Tory like Mr. Hazzard, and, at a late period, by such an excellent orthodox Conservative as Mr. Ings; but to give it to a presumptuous adventurer like the present incumbent, who had the unblushing effrontery to secure the confidence of a majority of the people's representatives, and to have his acceptance of the office ratified by his own constituents,—such conduct was totally at variance with the ancient rights and liberties of the Few to trample on the pretensions and assumptions of the Many.

But the reverend editors may assure us that they do not subscribe to all the opinions of their correspondents. We do not expect they can. But the correspondents whose "favours" we have noticed, would not be likely to contribute to the columns of the "sanctified press," unless they were sure of a favorable reception. Let us, however, offer a few words in reference to Mr. Stark's retirement, the responsibility attaching to the editorial article on which cannot be shirked by the editorial divines.

We are told that Mr. Stark, now for the first time eulogised as "a loyal and liberal Protestant of the Scottish Presbyterian stamp," was "dismissed" from his office by a "Liberal Government"—that this dismissal was owing to "his firm Protestantism," and "his unwillingness to become a partner in succumbing to Romish intrigue." The Protestants of this Island," continues the Reverend apologist, "have a right to demand why Mr. Stark was dismissed. Was he unfaithful in the discharge of his duties?" We shall endeavour to answer the question. In the first place, allow us to observe, that Mr. Stark was not "dismissed"—that "his firm Protestantism" had nothing to do with his release from the duties of his office—that he was not regarded as "a partner in succumbing to Romish intrigue," because there being no such intrigue, or "intrigue" of any kind, there could be no partnership of the character alluded to. We are willing to give Mr. Stark full credit for "his firm Protestantism," on the word of his apologist; but we cannot help saying, that while Sir Alex. Bannerman was here, who was known to be in communion with the English Church, and whose personal friendship and esteem Mr. Stark largely shared—the "Scottish Presbyterian stamp" was not very much obtruded on the public notice, there being a suspicion in the minds of the knowing ones, that the Stark family affected an ardent attachment to the Episcopal Church. So much for the "firm Protestantism" of our late distinguished Inspector of Schools.

"The Protestants of this Island have a right to demand why Mr. Stark was dismissed. Was he unfaithful in the discharge of his duties?" We repeat the indignant demand, and the querulous interrogatory, in order that we may answer them in their proper connection. We have already said that Mr. Stark was not dismissed, but we unhesitatingly answer the assertion, that he was unfaithful in the discharge of his duties.

When Mr. Stark undertook the duties of Visitor of Schools, it was with the express understanding that he should make two visitations in the year, and for this service he was to receive two hundred pounds per annum. The Royal Agricultural Society, being desirous of conferring on the rural population the benefits of modern discovery in Agricultural Science, declared their readiness to set apart one hundred pounds of their legislative grant for lectures on Agricultural Chemistry.

By Mr. Perry.—a petition from divers inhabitants of Townships 15, 16, and 17.

By Mr. Clark.—from inhabitants of Township 17; from inhabitants of Township 15 and its vicinity; from inhabitants of Townships 17 and 15; also from inhabitants of Townships 15 and 17.

The preceding five petitions were all praying aid to improve road communication, and laid on the table.

By Mr. Clark.—from inhabitants of Townships 15 and 16, praying a grant to improve the bridge over Haldimand River; laid on the table.

By Hon. Mr. Wightman.—from inhabitants of Township 63; from inhabitants of the Back Settlement, Township 52, both praying aid to improve road communication; also from inhabitants of Townships 59, 61, 63 and others, praying a grant to build a Bridge over the stream below "Aitken's" milldam, and to make a road from it to the present road; from inhabitants of Lower Montague and adjoining settlements, praying a grant in aid of individual subscription towards erecting a wharf at Cameron's shore; from Leverett Bishop, praying compensation for loss sustained by a road running through his farm; also from Thomas Henderson, praying for payment of a balance due on his contract for building a block and bridge at Mink River Basin on Township 63; which were all laid on the table.

By Mr. Muirhead.—from inhabitants of Township 25; two from inhabitants of Township 19; also one from inhabitants of Townships 25 and 19, and their vicinity all praying aid to improve their road communications; also from inhabitants of Wilnot Creek and its vicinity, praying a grant to repair a bridge; also from Thomas Hammill and Patrick Greehan, praying payment for extra work performed on a public road in 1855; which were all laid on the table.

By Hon. Whelan.—from inhabitants of Township 30, praying a grant to repair a road and build a bridge thereon; from inhabitants of south side of Grand River, Townships 54, 55, and others, praying a grant for the erection of a wharf at the south side of Grand River; also from Donald Morrison and other inhabitants of Townships 54 and 55, praying remuneration for labor performed by the said Donald Morrison, in completing the road, leading to Macleod's ferry, south side of Grand River; which were all laid on the table.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 14.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. Yeo, presented to the House a petition of the officebearers of the Prince County Central Agricultural Society, setting forth that they have dissolved their connection with the Royal Agricultural Society, and have formed themselves into a Central Agricultural Society, with the view of benefiting the whole County, and praying for a sum of money to promote agriculture throughout that County; and moved that it be referred to a Committee of Supply.

Hon. COL. TREASURER.—Before that petition is sent to Supply, some enquiries should be made respecting the Agricultural Society at St. Eleanor's. I believe the Royal Agricultural Society are about sending some person to that Society to enquire into its affairs; for it repudiates their claims. It is stated by the petitioners that they had received seed of a bad description; but they found that out I am at a loss to know. A quantity of turnip seed was sent to them, and of the same quality, as that received at other parts of the Island; and I know that the seed sent to St. Eleanor's was the same as that I used myself, which grew very well; but I know that turnip seed may grow very well at one time, and not at another. The Branch Society at St. Eleanor's, sold seeds at the same price as they are sold in Charlottetown thus giving distant parts of the Island the same privileges as are enjoyed here; and not only this, but the Royal Agricultural Society are in the habit of sending stock to all parts of the Island, and at present I believe there are some good animals, if not better, in that part of the County, than in other parts of it. The hon. member might let the petition lie on the table for the present, until enquiries are made.

Mr. YEO.—I will allow it to lie on the table at the present time; but respecting the turnip seed, I believe it was a bad sample. I had some from England which grew very well; but that seed was a heavy loss to the public; there was a great outcry about it. At the same time, the Society could not help it; but I think the Society there should be supported as well as other Societies.

Mr. CLARK.—I would just make a remark about that Society. That petition comes with a very bad grace from them, for they destroyed the former Society. If the first year they were capable of judging of the articles sold by the Royal Agricultural Society, why did they continue to take them and now repudiate the claims of that Society, as I am told they do? Through their mismanagement of the affairs of the Society, many left it, being disgusted at their proceedings, as I was before I left the place.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY.—I think since we have taken this matter up, we may as well enquire into it at once. Some resign office before they are turned out; and the Officebearers of the Society were well aware that if they did not resign, they would be dismissed; for they were £201 3s. 1d. in arrears. It is proposed to establish a depot there, which I dare say will give more general satisfaction than the Society has done. I happen to have a statement of the affairs of the Society, by which I see that on Nov. 6, 1855, they received goods to the value of £304 4s. 0d. Perhaps they may have put the turnip seed referred to into a cellar, and have not taken proper care of it, and so it might be injured. Notwithstanding their complaints, I see they have received £40, as their share of the Legislative grant. They have returned turnip seed said to be bad, to the value of £42. Now, regarding this seed, it was the same as that which the farmers in this county sowed; I sowed some of it, and it came up very thick. But as was said by Mr. Yeo, turnip seed of the same kind, sowed in the morning, and in the evening, may grow in a very different manner. One cask, however, of the seed returned to the Royal Agricultural Society, had not been opened, and some of it was put in earth at the depot of that Society, and I believe half of the seed grew, which shows that all the seed was not bad. But the seed proving bad, is no reason why the Society should be broken up. The proper way for them to have acted, was to come to the parent Society, and show that the seed was bad; and then arrangements might have been made respecting it; but instead of that, they returned a quantity of the seed, and having a balance against them of £201 3s. 1d. they drop connection with the Royal Agricultural Society, and say they have a Society of their own. I believe they had a meeting at St. Eleanor's, to pass a vote of want of confidence in the Royal Agricultural Society; but that is no reason why we should break up a good institution. There is a Branch Society at Cascumpec, and one at Tryon, which do very well. After having received goods of so much value from the Royal Agricultural Society, the sum of £201 3s. 1d. is too large an amount for them to try to cheat that Society out of. As to their share of the Government grant, they received two Pounds for every one they subscribed, as is done with all the Societies connected with the Royal Agricultural Society. They are credited with that amount, and I think that is as fair as the parent Society can do with this Society. If stock is sent there, and loss sustained on it, it is at the loss of the Central Society. I am very glad however, that the Society is broken up, as I think a depot may answer much better.

Mr. YEO.—I know nothing about the Society; but the petition was handed to me by the mail-driver that came in yesterday. Anything for which the Society applies to me, I give them at prime cost, for the encouragement of the Society. I think they should have the same privilege that the Society here has.

The petition was laid on the table.

Mr. Yeo presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Cascumpec, Kildare, Tignish, and adjacent settlements, praying for a repeal of the Law for the collection of Anchorage duty, in so far as it affects Vessels engaged in the fisheries. He said the petition was very well signed, and it was his opinion if only one half of the duty were imposed, there would be more collected than the whole sum at present amounted to. Some vessels took in their supplies in the United States, and Captain Ryder, informed him they were so much opposed to the high duties, that they would not come into the Harbor. It would be for the House to consider, he thought, that if only half of the present duty was demanded, there be a greater encouragement to trade in the harbor, and it would be a benefit both to the Government here and to the petitioners in general.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY.—It is very well for the hon. member to advocate the claims of a petition praying for encouragement to vessels going into that harbor. The case is very much like that of a man who lives in the outskirts of a town, complaining that he does not get so much trade as those

in the centre of it. But I have heard that Cascumpec is not now so good a harbor as it once was, and that more vessels go into Princeton than formerly. They have had a light-house established at Cascumpec, and vessels only pay light duty at one port; but in looking over the account of light duties, I find the amount collected at Princeton, is £91 2s. 2d. and that at Cascumpec, £67 16s. This shows that as many vessels would go to Princeton as to Cascumpec, if there was as good a light-house at Princeton as at Cascumpec. I believe it is the intention of the Government to ask the House for a sum of money to put a better light at Princeton than is at present, if they could fix on a suitable site. Last year there was expended for the light-house service £1,240, and the receipts amounted to about £744, which shows that £496 more were paid for keeping up light-houses than all the light duties amounted to; and therefore the agriculturalists will be called upon to make up the deficiency; so instead of lessening the duty I think we may have to consider whether it would not be well to increase it. But I think the reason assigned for the Americans not entering that harbor, is not the true one, and that they do not go there on account of a shifting bar of sand at the harbor.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY thought a greater amount of light duty might be collected at Princeton, as he was well aware that many vessels called there from which the duty could not be obtained. They set the collector at defiance, and he had not the means of enforcing compliance with the regulations relating to them. The masters of such vessels said they would pay the light duty, if there was a good and sufficient light provided; and if that were done, he felt satisfied, they would pay it cheerfully. The light at Cascumpec was better than it had been formerly; while a great many of the vessels called at Georgetown in going up the gulf, and paid their light duty, and so were not required to pay again; and a great number, went into Princeton and paid no light duty at all.

Mr. YEO said, respecting what the Hon. Col. Secretary said about the harbor of Cascumpec, he would not stand to hear him ridicule it as he had done. The harbor was better now than it had been seven years ago. There were twelve feet of water at it last summer; but previously only seven feet. If the statement of the hon. member were to go abroad as he made it, captains of vessels might be afraid to go to that harbor.

Petition laid on the table.

Mr. Muirhead presented a petition of divers inhabitants of the Third Electoral District of Prince County, praying that the Education Law is about to expire, the House will direct the Holy Scriptures to be placed on the list of books now in use in the public schools, and that they be introduced into the Academy and Normal School—to be daily read by the children of those parents who do not object to its use, and being taught therein by such Teachers as the parents may approve of; also, a petition of Robert S. Patterson and others, praying for a similar object; laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Montgomery presented a petition of inhabitants of Princeton Royalty and Township No. 18, praying for a similar object to the one preceding; laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Treasurer presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Cascumpec, Kildare, and Tignish, praying that an annual grant may be made to encourage a Packet to run weekly between Cascumpec and Miramichi, New Brunswick.

Mr. CLARK.—What are they going to do with a Packet? There is little or no trade at that place.

Hon. COL. TREASURER.—I was under the impression that there was not sufficient trade there to require the services of a Packet, but I have been told that I was mistaken in that opinion.

Mr. YEO.—I am well aware that they require a market; they raise a great deal of produce, and run a great risk in taking it to market in small boats in the summer. They pay largely to the revenue of the Colony, and being far from a good market in the Island, they are very much in want of a Packet to convey their produce to a market in the other Provinces.

Petition referred to a Committee of the whole House when on the Packet Bill.

Hon. Col. Treasurer presented a petition of Thomas Robson, Sackville, New Brunswick, praying encouragement towards the erection of a Fog Bell invented by him, at certain places therein mentioned.

Some hon. members were opposed to receiving the petition, as a similar one had been before the House last Session from the same individual, and because they regarded the proposed scheme as an impracticable one, especially as there was but little fog on the Island; while others were in favor of receiving the petition, knowing that the invention was an ingenious one, and being of opinion that the plan could be carried into effect.

Petition laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Secretary presented a petition of William Cousins, Duncan Macintyre and Robert Simpson, Commissioners for the recovery of Small Debts at New London, setting forth the serious inconvenience under which they labor for want of a suitable house wherein to hold their Court, and praying relief. He did not know what to say about the petition. He believed several other Courts felt a great inconvenience from the want of such buildings; but he also believed that the House was not prepared to vote a sum of money for their erection. Perhaps if the Bill to establish Municipalities throughout the Island, met with the favorable consideration of the House, such buildings might be erected in different parts of the Island; but as the Education Bill was before the House, provision might possibly be made in it that School-houses should be employed for the holding of Small Debt Courts, in cases where no other buildings could be obtained for that purpose.

Petition referred to a Special Committee consisting of Hons. Col. Secretary, Wightman, and Mr. Muirhead.

Hon. Col. Secretary presented a petition of John MacLeod, New London, setting forth that in a suit brought by him against Thomas Pickering for the recovery of a debt due for work performed on the Public roads, he had obtained a judgement in the Small Debt Court, against which decision, the said Thomas Pickering had entered an appeal in the Supreme Court; that in consequence of a violent snow storm which entirely impeded the travelling, and prevented the Petitioner's timely appearance at Court, he found on his arrival that the Supreme Court had previously dismissed the said appeal cause along with others, for want of prosecution, whereby the Petitioner has lost a just debt, and is called upon to pay an amount of costs which he had no means of defraying, and praying relief. He really did not know what to say in reference to advising the House what to do with the Petition. It was one of those unfortunate cases that some people occasionally become involved in. He believed the principal complaint was the short practice of the Court, that if no cases were present they tried the appeal cases, which usually were left to near the close of the Court. Under these circumstances many people having appeal cases did not attend at first, and should their case come on in their absence, the Court dismissed it; but in the present case the person was not able to attend Court at the time, and he (Hon. Col. Secretary) should think it would be better to send the petition to Court, and have a hearing of the case. The only thing that the House could do in the matter, was to endeavor to prevent similar occurrences in future, by providing that the Court should hear appeal cases on particular days. Some such plan had been suggested by some of the lawyers. Perhaps some honorable members better acquainted with such cases than he was, would give their opinion on the subject.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY.—I am not much acquainted with the case; but it seems strange, he being the defendant, how the expenses came on him. Now the case has been dismissed, neither of the parties having appeared, and it seems remarkable how this person has to pay the expenses.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—This is a very hard case; it may be well to enquire into it.

Mr. MACINTOSH.—It is certainly a very hard case, and most unaccountable how the expenses crept upon it without its being tried. The petitioner was the defendant in this case, and the Commissioner obtained judgment in his own favor. I believe if ever there was a petition before the House that ought to be referred to a special committee, this is one.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY.—I suppose this person had a lawyer engaged in the case, and if he was not satisfied with the course pursued relating to it, it would not have been taken. The only question for the House to consider is, that the petitioner wants to have the expenses paid. Though I presented

the petition, yet I would not trouble the House with an enquiry into the circumstances of the case, as we would have to send for witnesses, &c. I think the remedy is elsewhere, and that the Court ought to grant a hearing of the case.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY.—It certainly is a great hardship on this poor man, who has undoubtedly performed the labor he engaged to do; and I do not know for what reason the Commissioner did not pay him. There may be some doubt whether he had the power to prosecute the Commissioner or not. I certainly think it advisable to refer the petition to a special committee.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY.—I would rather go as far as that, and get an enquiry into the matter, than give a vote in the dark; for a man may make out a fair petition, and we may vote away money in the dark. The members for the District are not acquainted with the case; but it is strange that the Commissioner did not pay the man for his labor. If it was stormy, the petitioner could not attend Court.

Mr. YEO.—This case ought to be investigated. The petitioner is a poor man; perhaps that £10 of expenses charged against him would ruin him.

Mr. LAIRD.—I do not think we can come to a decision, without knowing better about the case. It appears that the petitioner has been wronged some way; and I think it would be better to enquire into the matter, and that an examination is necessary. It seems that the storm prevented him from coming to Charlottetown at the meeting of the Court.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY.—Let the petition lie on the table for the present, and let him be notified that his presence is required before the House, that we may know if his case is a good one. I believe that this petition was drawn up by Macleod's lawyer, Mr. Charles Palmer, and that the Court was too hasty in the case. The whole particulars of the case appear intricate; but if the House find that the proceedings have been unlawful, they would remunerate the petitioner.

Mr. LAIRD.—I saw the petitioner, Macleod; he wanted to take an oath relating to the petition. He said it was impossible for him to come to Charlottetown at the time referred to. The petition was laid on the table.

The following petitions were also presented, viz:—

By Hon. Mr. Wightman, a petition of John Hyde, Road Commissioner, Murray Harbor, praying remuneration for extra time expended in superintending the building of a Bridge and Wharf in his District; laid on the table.

By Mr. Yeo, from inhabitants of Townships 13 and 14, praying a grant to extend the wharf at Brown's Creek, Township 13; also, from inhabitants of Grand River, Township 14, and others, praying a grant to repair a road; both laid on the table.

By Hon. Col. Treasurer, from inhabitants of Townships 10 and 6, and others, praying a grant to build a bridge at Goff's Ferry, Township 10; from inhabitants of Kildare, Township 3, praying a grant to rebuild the bridge at Hardy's Mill; both laid on the table;—from inhabitants of Kildare, and others; from inhabitants of the rear of Township 7; from inhabitants of Townships 1 and 2, and others; from inhabitants of Hill River and Mill River Settlements, Townships 4 and 5; and another from inhabitants of the same localities. The last five were praying aid to improve road communications, and were laid on the table.

By Hon. Col. Secretary, a petition from inhabitants of East Suffolk Settlement; from inhabitants of Townships 21, and others; from inhabitants of Tracadie Road Settlement and its vicinity; from inhabitants of Friston Road Settlement; also, from James Ferguson, Township 34,—all praying aid to improve their road communications, and were laid on the table.

By Hon. Mr. Wightman, a petition of inhabitants of North side of Narrow's Creek, Townships 54 and 55, praying aid to improve their road communication; laid on the table.

By Mr. Douse, from residents on and near Halkett's Road, Township 69; from Patrick Doyle, Malcolm Forbes, and others; also from inhabitants of Village Green and Monaghan Settlements, and others,—all praying aid to improve road communication, and laid on the table.

By Mr. Perry, from inhabitants of Townships 15 and 14; from inhabitants of Egmont Bay; also, from inhabitants of Townships 13, 14 and 15,—all praying aid to improve road communication, and laid on the table.

By Mr. Macdonald, from inhabitants of Townships 54 and 55, and others, praying a grant to extend the wharf at the south side of Cardigan River; laid on the table.

By Mr. Yeo, from Thomas Boyle, Township 11, praying for the opening of a road to his land; also, from inhabitants of Townships 14, 16, and its vicinity, praying a grant in aid of individual subscription towards the erection of a bridge over Trout River, and the opening of a road to it,—referred to the committee on new roads.

By Mr. Cooper, from inhabitants of Mill River Settlement, Township 46; also, from inhabitants of Township 47, both praying for the opening of new roads,—referred to the committee on new roads.

By Hon. Col. Secretary, from inhabitants of Township 23 and others, praying for the opening of a new road; referred to the new road committee.

By Mr. Macintosh, from Angus MacIsaac and inhabitants of Chepstow and its vicinity, praying for the opening of a new road; referred to the committee on new roads.

By Hon. Mr. Wightman, from inhabitants of Townships 59 and 61, praying for the opening of a new road; referred to the new road committee.

By Mr. Yeo, from Susanna Maclean, widow of the late Neil Maclean, teacher, praying for an allowance for the unexpired period of her husband's engagement as a teacher at Township 16 at the time of his decease; referred to the committee on teachers' petitions.

By Mr. Cooper, from inhabitants of Little Harbor, Souris East, Township 46, praying a grant for the services of Matthew Revillo, a teacher in that District; referred to the same committee.

By Hon. Mr. Whelan, from John Campbell, praying an allowance for his services as a teacher at Bay Fortune; referred to the same committee.

By Mr. Macintosh, from inhabitants of Bull Creek back settlement, otherwise Glenanadale, praying a grant for the services of Lanchlan Macphee as a teacher in that locality for a period of nine months; referred to the same committee.

By Hon. Mr. Whelan, a petition of Peter McCallum, praying for a return of duties paid on goods imported by him, and afterwards sold as damaged goods.

Some objections were made to receiving this petition, on the ground that one relating to the same subject had been received from the same individual last session, and then disposed of; but it having been stated that additional information could now be communicated on the matter, the petition was received, and referred to a special committee, consisting of Hon. Mr. Whelan, Messrs. Macdonald and Macintosh, to examine it and report thereon.

By Mr. Laird, a petition of inhabitants of New London and adjacent settlements, praying for the establishment of a ferry at the South West River, at the place known as Coles's Ferry, New London; referred to the special committee appointed last session to report on a petition praying aid to erect a bridge over said river.

R. LAIRD, Rep.

HORRIBLE DEATH.—It has been stated that no white man has been put to death on suspicion of complicity in the recent slave insurrections. A communication in the New York Tribune asserts that in addition to twenty negroes barbarously killed by the frightened residents in the vicinity of the Dover Iron Works in Tennessee, a white man, charged with being privy to the plot, had been squeezed to death in a cotton press.