...r of the Opposition twitted the Government upon its silence respecting the ...ll to secure the independence of Parliament. Sir, that bill has already been twice before this House; and, although nothing has been said about it in the Governor's speech, it is the intention of the Government to introduce it again. I am sure my honorable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will,—if he is true to his lately uttered professions—this year give the Government more assistance in passing it that he did last year. There was then, a great deal said about an honorable member of this House, who is not now present—who is in the Senate at Ottawa—and the Leader of the Opposition strongly opposed the position that hon. gentleman occupied. There may be some objections to that position. The only one to my mind, is that of inconvenience. But, sir, there are very serious objections, indeed, to some hon. gentlemen who have seats in this House—who are to-day seated around this Honorable Board, — gentlemen who hold offices, and draw their salaries under the Dominion Government, — gentlemen who do not, at present, occupy independent positions. It is all very well for hon. members of the Opposition, to insist that we should be free as air; sir, the members on this side of the House are quite as independent as those on their side; and, it is our intention, to introduce a measure which will ensure a little more independence in the future. The Leader of the Opposition has been hard upon our system of education. At present, our Common Schools are, unfortunately, not in a healthy condition; and the School Act, undoubtedly, requires some alteration. The cost of maintaining teachers is a heavy drain upon the Province. The amount expended every year is, I believe, about $60,000; and yet, many of the schools are vacant and the result generally unsatisfactory. To relieve the heavy drain upon the finances of the Province, and to awaken a greater interest in our public schools, it is necessary that the people should contribute more directly, as in the United States and Canada, to the support of their schools. Yet, I doubt whether we would be justified in adopting that course. Some years ago an alteration was made. What was the effect? Why, sir, the pressure was so great that we had to back out. The proper course to pursue, under the circumstances, is, I hesitate not to say, to leave the question to the people themselves. The most we can do is to appoint a Commission to enquire into the state of our public schools, and to bring the question before the people in a practical shape. It is all very well for my learned friend to hold up our public schools as a crying shame; but, sir, at the bottom of all, there is another great question, and that is whether our schools shall be purely secular or not. There are, sir, many good conscientious men on each side of this question, and there can be no practical solution of it until it is submitted to the people at the polls. There is another point in my hon. friend's speech to which I will briefly allude. It respects the management of public lands on this colony. It is not, sir, the policy of the Government, to retain the estates of which they will soon become possessed. It will not do for the Government to remain proprietors. The lands will have to be sold; and, there is no doubt about it, the head of the Department for the time being, will—as my hon. friend rightly remarks—have to be a very able man indeed. I trust, sir, that the time is not very far distant when all the lands of the Province will pass out of the hands of the Government into those of the occupiers; and we will have to take care that the money received for them is capitalized.

Mr. L. H. Davies—Are we to understand that the policy of the Government is to sell the lands so that the estates will be self-sustaining?

Hon. Mr. Brecken—No, no. The policy of the Government is not to remain the proprietor of the lands; and to sell them at prices at which the tenants will be induced to buy. None of the lands have yet been secured with the exception of two small estates; but when they are, there can be no doubt about it, the Land Department—which is an exceedingly difficult one to manage—will have to be placed in the ablest hands. My learned friend advocates the abolition of imprisonment for debt; and I cordially agree with all that he said upon that point. It is certainly hard to see what end is obtained in placing a poor unfortunate man in jail, to do no good whatever—either for his creditor, his family or himself. Not very many years ago, however, imprisonment was abolished for £10 and under. But what was the result? Why, sir, petitions poured into this House asking for repeal. The passage of an Act entirely abolishing imprisonment for debt would probably have the effect of 'shutting down' upon the credit system altogether.

Mr. B. Davies—I did not expect, Mr. Speaker, that an attempt would have been made to pass the Address by a silent vote. We were informed that the House would be opened upon a certain day; and upon that day it is usual for the Government to show what has been done and what is intended to be done. On looking over the Lieutenant Governor's speech, however, I find that, taken altogether, it is one of the weakest speeches ever delivered from the gubernatorial chair. I expected, sir, that his Honor would have told us how his Government had carried out the instructions given by this House last session. I thought we would hear something about the Lunatic Asylum and other public works ordered last year. But, sir, we heard nothing of the kind. Taking the country as a whole, it does not lavish very high encomiums upon his Honor's Government; and the speech delivered by His Honor is made up of a very few words with very little meaning in them. His Honor has kindly thrown a veil over the misconduct of his Government. The financial depression existing at present is alluded to. In my opinion that depression has been overestimated. The country is sound at heart. It is true, sir, we feel the loss of the money expended upon the railway while the job was in progress, but the trade of the country is just as great as before. At the same time the commercial depression abroad has, to a certain extent, re-acted upon us. The prices of our ships have gone down, and other adverse circumstances have combined to bring about a stringency in our money market. Then there is a paragraph about the railway. This is the second time the railway and its advantages have been held up to the admiration of this Legislature in the Governor's Speech. For my part, sir, I am not so certain about its beneficial results. If the railway were now a burden upon our resources—as at first contemplated by its projectors—it would be a curse to the country. Sir, it is lucky for the country that the Dominion Government has agreed to run the road and bear the expense of maintaining it. As it is, I believe it will be of no great advantage to the people at large. Of course it will be very convenient for travel. But it can be of little use to our farmers; for the rates of freight on coal and limestone—the two great requirements of the people—are so high that farmers cannot afford to move them into the country by rail. And for my part, sir, I cannot see any great advantage the road has yet been, further than has accrued to the people from the immense amount of money which was expended upon its construction. That the awards of the Land Commissioners have been cancelled is a matter of regret—but not of surprise. We might have been sure that any Act which did not receive the sanction of the Supreme Court would be baulked. The office of Public Lands over which the hon. member for Fort Augustus presides is now the most important in the Colony. That office has not been in very good repute. If you will remember, Mr. Speaker, it was stated in this House last year, by the late Commissioner, that the office was not then in a good position. He said that it was impossible to get details respecting the land owned by the Province; that the lands were not surveyed, and that they were not accessable for want of roads. This was a most extraordinay statement to come from the head of the Department; and I, for my part, should like to hear that the office is in good working order now. I hope, sir, the present incumbent will be able to give this House all the necessary information. I should also like to hear some account of the finances of the Province. I fear, sir, that they are in a very bad state indeed. It is, to say the least, ominous that there is not in the Speech a paragraph assuring the Legislature that the finances are in a healthy condition. His Honor says something about settling the claims of the railway contractors. The Government, sir, ought to have come to a settlement with the contractors before they accepted the road. The conduct of the Government in taking the road as they did, was very extraordinary, particulary when it is considered that they had been warned by a Dominion official that the terms of contract had not been fulfilled.

Hon. Mr. Kelly, Commissioner of Crown Lands could assure the House that the Public Lands of the Province are now all surveyed and that every lot can be pointed out upon the plans. He had not been Commissioner very long, but he had endeavored to make the office as efficient as possible. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition had stated that he (Mr. Kelly) was unfit to perform the duties of the office. If the hon. gentleman will only wait till the accounts are brought down, he will find that there is not so much to find fault with as he appears to imagine. There is, no doubt, a large amount of money still due the office. But last autumn he (the Commissioner) had caused an advertisement to be inserted in the newspapers to the effect that all tenants in arrear would be proceeded against as the law directs, and since the publication of that notice, more money has been paid into the office than for the twelve months previous. As regards education, it seems that some of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House think they have found a mare's nest in the schools of Charlottetown. I see that they have placed a notice on the order book, asking for the production of papers concerning them.

Mr. L. H. Davies—Does the hon. member mean to say that we have not the right to put such a question on the order book?

Hon. Mr. Kelly—Certainly not. I was only going to remark that perhaps it would not be so easy to show that the Board of Education have neglected their duty as the hon. members think.

Mr. Holland—As I have been alluded to by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition I will take this opportunity of making a few remarks in reply, and upon the speech. The hon. gentleman attempted to criticise the grammatical construction of one of the paragraphs in the draft address, but it has been shown by the Hon. Dr. Jenkins that the sentence is perfectly correct. I will give a case in which a singular verb is used which, it correct in one case must be in the other. The sentence is, 'The wages of sin is death.'

Mr. L. H. Davies—Does the hon. member mean to say that the wages of Government is death?

Hon. Mr. Holland—No. But I mean to say that the political wages of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition may lead to his political death. Much has been said respecting the necessity of a Minister of Public Works. Sir, we have already a Minister of Public Works, in the person of the chairman. Therefore we have nothing to complain of in that respect. In respect to the charge of copying from last year's journal, I have only to say that the first paragraph in every address is the same. The Opposition finds great fault with the mover and seconder of the address for not speaking to it; but I can assure the Opposition that we followed the custom which has been practiced in this House at least for the last ten years. The hon. senior member for Belfast, in his remarks, asserted that the paragraph in His Honor's Speech which alludes to the commercial depression, that it was incorrect; but I contend that commercial depression prevails very extensively both in Europe and America; but on this Island, I am happy to say, that it does not prevail to the same extent that it does in the sister provinces and United States, and that our farmers are prosperous and appear to enjoy almost an immunity from want which is owing to their intelligence and industry; and if the farmers of P. E. Island continue to prosper in the future as they have in the past, they will soon be looked upon as being the most independent and prosperous agricultural community this side of the Atlantic. In regard to the Land Question, I regret, as you do, sir, that the final settlement of the question has been obstructed. I sincerely trust the obstructions may prove only temporary. I hope that when the estates come into possession of the Government, that they will see their way sufficiently clear to offer the lands to the tenants at so low a rate, (say two dollars per acre), as to induce them to come in immediately and purchase the broad acres which they cultivate so industriously.

Mr. L. H. Davies—Did the hon. member support the Government in the policy of settling the Land Question?

Mr. Holland—Yes, and when the Question first came up, I took the liberty of suggesting to the Government a plan, which if it had been adopted, would have saved the country thousands and thousands of dollars. I was twitted then by his hon. the Leader of the Opposition, with having an eye to my own interests, but I think the hon. member, when he twitted me, had an eye to the grist which he was likely to bring to his own mill. With regard to Registration of votes, I am in favour of that measure; but I think the question of voting by ballot is one which should be received for consideration of the people. It is a system I never approved of. It admits of corruption and bad practices; and therefore I hope it will never obtain in this Province. On this Island the Elections compare more than favourably with those of the neighboring Provinces, and the United States, where the ballot has been introduced. Look at the elections in Ontario. How many elections have recently been contested and declared void there, on account of corruption? At one election, there was, actually, two hundred more ballots thrown than there were names of voters upon the register. I, sir, am in favor of the system of open and free voting. That cannot be a corrupt system; and I hope it will continue to obtain in this Island. With respect to the railroad, we have reason, sir, to congratulate ourselves upon the possession of that great work. That it has not given entire satisfaction rests with the Dominion Government. What have they done to make it useful and acceptable to the people of this Island? Why, sir, when I look at the management, I am forced to the conclusion that they are doing all they can to bring the railroad into disrepute. Mr. Davies tells us that the rates of freight are too high on coal, limestone, and other articles. Yes, sir, they are out of all proportion to the cost of the railroad. If we have a cheap railroad we should have cheap accommodation. Allusions has been made to the subject of winter communication with the Mainland. That service is certainly a difficult one; but the Dominion Government have not put forth such exertions to perform it, as by the terms of Confederation, we have a right to expect. They have saved at least, $60,000 by the non-performance of the contract; and, in my opinion, we should make a strong effort to obtain part of that money for the purpose of applying it to local works.

House took recess for one hour.

Monday, March 20, 1875.

House met after recess.

Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Debate on motion to go into Committee on Draft Address, resumed.

Mr. Stewart said that as the matter contained in the Speech with which the session had been opened, did not invite much discussion, his remarks would be brief. He regretted exceedingly that the seconder of the Address, had not delivered himself of a speech with reference to some of the subjects alluded to in it, as his having done so would have greatly facilitated the the business of the House. That hon. member for Bedeque—had given the House to understand that when money was required to carry out any public work, no matter whether a sufficient sum had been granted by Parliament or not, the Board of Works should proceed with the work, and the Government should supply the funds. There was no difficulty in the hon. member's mind about the matter; in order to gratify his ambition, the money would be forthcoming. With reference to the Railway, he (Mr. Stewart) thought the Dominion Parliament had treated us very liberally, as it had, at its last Session, granted $200,000 for the working expenses and its better equipment; but so badly built was the road, and so deficient in rolling stock was it, that the whole of that amount had been expended upon it, and not a dollar was left for the purchase of new locomotives. Yet these facts were as nothing to the hon. member for Bedeque, as he insisted that all the blame in connection with the unsatisfactory working of the road was chargeable to the Dominion Government. The first matter mentioned in in the Speech was the commercial depression which existed throughout this Province at the present time. He (Mr. S.) believed that similar expressions had lately been used in every Parliament and Representative body on this side of the water. He was strongly of the opinion that if economy was practiced by the Government and people of this Province, agricultural pursuits were of so recuperative a nature, trade would soon revive, and the country speedily regain its flourishing condition. Much of the commercial depression at present existing amongst us, was owing to causes over which we as a community might have, at the proper time, exercised control. Our farmers, instead of advising themselves of the prices of the principal articles of export in the countries which are our best markets, and endeavoring to regulate their own demands accordingly, had not taken advantage of our home markets when good prices were offered for their farm produce. The fact was that there had lately been a disposition on the part of the farmers of this Island to ask exorbitant prices for the produce of their farms, and they now suffered from the consequences of their own actions. He believed that last year no less than $300,000 was thus lost to the capital of this province. Farmers should acquaint themselves with foreign markets and regulate their own prices so as to allow exporters to trade with advantage to themselves and to the country generally. Trade will always find its own level, and exorbitant demands will be sure to meet with their own cure. In the the present instance, he regretted that the commercial depression consequent upon such a course had come upon us so suddenly and heavily, and that we had felt it so severely. Under such circumstances we should endeavor to shape our course under a wise economy. He thought that instead of promising a meagre measure for the registration of persons entitled to vote at elections, the Government should have come down with a proposal to place the whole matter upon a new footing. Hon. members on the Opposition side of the House had made every effort in their power to make that best of all measures, the Land Purchase Act, a success; and he hoped that 'the legal question arising out of the proceedings of the Commissioners would soon be decided.' Any measure tending to bring the settlement of the Land Question to a speedy termination would receive his warmest support. Much blame was sought to be fastened upon the Dominion Government for the inefficient working of the railway, which should have been laid upon other parties, viz., those who constructed it. If the people of this Island had not received all the advantages from it which they should have had, the blame is chargeable at the doors of the hon. member for Bedeque and his party. The money granted by the Dominion Parliament, last session, was not sufficient to stock the road properly, and when the superintended, Mr. McKechnie, asked for new locomotives, the government of Canada were perfectly astounded. But the state of the road and its equipments were such that an immense outlay was necessary to place them in a workable condition. Other subjects should have been alluded to in the Speech, and the necessary measures proposed. Ample time had been given to the Government to prepare the necessary measures, and they would have placed themselves in a better position before the country, when seeking re-election, if they had taken hold of those subjects. The more difficult the subject taken up and dealt with and wisely handled, the greater will be the credit that will redound to their honor. The Education Question is one that demands a speedy remedy; and if it is a difficult one, the greater will be the credit to the party that masters the difficulty. He did not think this question a difficulty that could not be surmounted; and he had no doubt whatever, that when the reins of power would be handed over to Her Majesty's Opposition they would handle it at once. It betokened cowardice on the part of the Government to shirk the amendment of the Education Act. The expenditure for the support of our Education system was second only to that of Public Works. The amendment of our Education Laws, involves the great question, whether our young men and women should be educated citizens, or otherwise. If the rumor was true, that the House had no reports on the state of our Public Schools, either from the School Visitors or from the Secretary of the Board of Education, matters must be in a very loose state. It is of the first importance for hon. members of the House to know the state of education in the country—whether many schools are vacant for want of teachers, and whether it is true that some of the school-houses are sources of immorality. Many persons in Charlottetown, are taxed from ten to fifteen dollars per year for the support of Education and yet he who wishes to give his children a good education sends them to a private school. A poor mechanic has, under such circumstances, to stretch his means to the utmost in order to give his children an education. There is, therefore, a pressing necessity for an amendment in our education laws. The Government have been repeatedly assured by the members of the opposition that no obstruction would be thrown in the way of a thorough amendment of our Education Act, yet they refuse to take hold of the matter and make the necessary changes. He did not wish to appeal to the prejudices of any hon. member around the Board, but he felt bound to say that our Educational affairs should be placed upon an entirely different footing. A system of Education which costs the country from $60,000 to $70,000 per year, should be put under thorough and efficient management. When his mind was fully made up that the appointment of a Commission to report upon our public schools was necessary, he would feel bound to support it. He would go for grappling with our Educational difficulties stoutly and strongly, and would favor no way of escape from dealing with them. Another department that urgently required remodeling was the Board of Works. This demand would be set to music before the House rose. It was to be hoped that the Board had not expended more money than was placed at its disposal by the House last Session, notwithstanding the urgent demands of the hon. member for Bedeque. It appeared that a public meeting was lately held in the district represented by that hon. member for the purpose of taking measures to extend its wharf accommodation. When applied to, the hon. member informed his constituents that this was a matter which devolved upon the general Government at Ottawa, and advised an application to it for assistance. This was the way in which that hon. member shirked the performance of his duty with reference to such matters. The hon. senior member for Belfast had, very properly, alluded to the Lunatic Asylum. Although it was not mentioned in the Speech, he [Mr. S.] hoped that the Government were prepared with necessary plans etc., for commencing operations for the erection of a new building.

Mr. Conroy said that the subject of education was not alluded to in the Draft Address, but it still seemed to be the foremost question now before the public of this country. His hon. friend, the member for Strathalbyn, had just informed the House that our public schools were now the sources of immorality and ignorance! Is this the condition into which our public schools have fallen? Although this was a most important matter, and one for which a very large amount of money was annually expended, not a single report was before the House to show the state of the schools and the progress, if any, made during the past year. Even the Secretary of the Board of Education had not submitted a report of any kind! To whom, he would ask, was that officer responsible? The Secretary was, he believed, a clergyman. Did the Clergy of which that gentleman was a member, countenance such a state of affairs in our public schools as that stated by the hon. member for Strathalbyn? Surely not! That hon. member had described the public schools as 'dens of immorality and ignorance.' No language of his (Mr. C.) could depict the condition of our public schools in more shocking words than those of that hon. member. Surely such a state of matters would not be allowed to last long!

He regretted very much the depressed state of trade in this province. His own district had suffered, and was still suffering from the general depression; but he hoped that in a short time trade would revive, and that the stringency of the money market would be relieved. If the hon. gentlemen composing the Government had not that firm trust in Providence which they should have, he had; and he believed that the country would soon be as flourishing as it was a few years ago. As for the railway, he thought it had not, under the system by which it had hitherto been managed, proved so beneficial to the poor of this province as it should, except that many had received employment in clearing the snow from the track during the winter season. But as the latter was not the object for which the road was constructed, its real object had not been attained. The fact that the transportation of oats from Tignish to Charlottetown cost six cents per bushel, was sufficient to convince any person familiar with our circumstances, that the poor farmer could not reap much benefit from its operation at such rates. The passage money is also, entirely too high. The fare from Tignish to the city is $3.35, or 3.50 per head—a sum entirely above a poor man's means. Again, the poor Indian and the rich merchant had, under the present management, to travel in the same car. In order to make the road a benefit to the poor, there should be second class cars placed upon it, and the rates should be materially reduced. If this were done, there would in his opinion, be a much larger traffic upon the line. He would like to see the road managed so as to benefit the community generally. As at present operated it was merely a luxury instead of a general benefit. He was glad to see that a measure would be introduced by the Government for the registration of voters, as he believed it to be really necessary in order to prevent the practice of swearing political opponents at elections with reference to their votes. The frivolous swearing, at such times, now so common, should be abolished. To demand the administration of an oath to old men in such cases, was extremely offensive. Oaths were often demanded in the case of young men, in order to intimidate them, and to prevent their voting. It is high time that the old system was superseded by a better one. Another measure alluded to in the Address was the Land Purchase Act. He thought that the awards of the Land Commissioners were in some cases far too high. In some instances $5.00 per acre, and in others $5.25 per acre was awarded. The lands should be sold to the tenants at such prices as to enable them to become freeholders on fair terms. If the prices were fixed at too high a figure, the poorer class of tenants would be forced to remain tenants, and the lands would remain in the possession of the Government. This would be contrary to the spirit and intention of the Land Purchase Act. The Board of Works, as an institution, had never, in his opinion, given satisfaction to the people of this Island. As this would be the last session of the present House, he thought the Government should make amends for the past, and do justice to his district. Some attention should be paid by them to the applications made by his constituents with reference to their roads and bridges.

Mr. Callbeck was much disappointed with the Speech with which His Honor had opened the session, as he had expected that a speech emanating from a Government, by many persons considered not only able, as politicians, but as statesmen, would have contained something worthy of note. In his opinion, it was the duty of the Government to propound measures and that of the House to ratify or reject those measures, as it might see fit. The measure promised, in reference to the registration of votes was not important, unless something more in connection with it was also to be brought down. But the most important measure alluded to in the address, was the Land Purchase Act. He had often been asked by the tenants how the proprietors' estates were to be managed when they became the property of the Government, and he had always answered that he expected the Government would, when the House met, bring in a Bill, making provision for disposing of the lands which came into their possession. He fully expected that the Address would have contained some allusion to such a measure; but he had been grievously disappointed. There were many other important questions which should have been taken into hand this session: the chief of which was that in reference to the Board of Works. During the last session of the House, the Opposition were almost unanimous for the abolition of that institution, and placing the department under the control of a central head, who would be responsible to the House for all expenditure of monies for public works. The Government themselves, admit that such a change was necessary. Why had they not therefore, alluded to this matter in the Speech with which the Session was opened? He would, probably be told that he was at one time a member of a Government which introduced the Bill to establish that institution. This was true; but if the principles acted upon at that time were as strictly carried out to day, he did not think there would be any just reason for complaint. Under the practice now followed, the House was annually voting money in the dark, to be expended by the board. At last session no less than $17,000 or $18,000 were asked for unfinished contracts alone, concerning which, the House knew nothing! Where could the Government find a precedent for such a course? None was to be found in the acts of either the Canadian or the Imperial Parliaments. Our Board of Works, as at present constituted, was an irresponsible body, because, although some of its members occupy seats in the House others did not. It was the undisputed privilege of the House to vote the public monies for particular purposes, knowing how they were to be expended. If there was anything for which hon. members of the House were responsible, it was the expenditure of the public funds. But how could they be responsible under the system now carried out by the Government? If the whole department were placed under the control of a central head, it would become the duty of the Government to bring down an estimate of the expenditure necessary for the most important public works, and to explain where the money was to be expended. The House would then be in a position to say 'yea' or 'nay,' as its members thought proper. But according to present appearances, the same old course as that pursued last session, would still be followed. Reference was made in the Address to the new law court's building: but not a word was said about the new asylum, for which provision was made last session. Was it the intention of the government to erect a new building or not? Hon. members all felt the necessity for increased accommodation for the inmates of the present institution. The old asylum was now crowded, and the poor-house contained many who were fit inmates for an asylum. Instead of being a poor-house as intended, the latter building was now really an infirmary. Increased and improved accommodation for the old and infirm of that class of persons was absolutely necessary. The subject of education had been spoken to by the hon. member for Strathalbyn. Allusion had been made by the hon. member for Tignish (Mr. C.) to a remark which fell from Mr. Stewart with reference to the state of our public schools. He (Mr. Callbeck) understood the latter to say that many of the school-houses were unoccupied—not that immorality prevailed in the schools. The hon. member for Bedeque had stated that the Leader of the Government was the head of the Board of Works, Superintendent. If so, his honor had never brought in a report showing what public works had been undertaken; what portion of them had been completed, and what portion remained unfinished, as he should have done. Whether his honor would do so during the present session or not, he (Mr. C.) did not know; but he should do so. If the head and the tail were taken from the Speech, the middle portion would be found to be worthless, as it contained almost nothing worthy of notice. On the whole, there were few measures involving much responsibility alluded to in the Speech. The promised amendment to the Land Purchase Act of last session, was the chief measure referred to. Another measure for the Registration of the votes of persons qualified to vote at elections, was also promised. Looking at hon. members of the Government as they sat around the board, one would suppose some of them equal in ability to a Burke, a Chatham or even a Palmerston. Some of them in wealth and, as financiers, might be likened to the Rothchilds. He would not say that there were not able men among them; but he certainly did expect from them, a great number of useful and able measures, especially when the latter were so much required. As the Government had a large majority at their back, they could not plead a lack of force to carry out their schemes. His honor the Attorney General, during the course of his remarks, declared that the supporters of the Government were at least as independent as the hon. members of the Opposition. He (Mr. C.) differed in opinion from his honor in this matter, as he could count a majority of Opposition members who were perfectly free from the trammels of office, while on the Government side he could only count two. This was certainly a very small number of independent members in so large a number of supporters.

The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, father-in-law of the Grand Duke Wladmir, and Prince Alexander of Hesse, brother of the Czarina, are visiting their relations in St. Petersburg. Alexis has returned to his frigate the *Svetlana* in the Mediteranean.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

Personal.—Hon. J. C. Pope reached home on Friday evening last.

Rev. D. FitzGerald lectures in St. Paul's Schoolroom, on Tuesday evening next,—Subject "Africa."

Rev. D. D. Currie's lecture on "Eloquence and Orators" interested a large audience for two hours and a half.

An Eclipse.—A partial eclipse of the sun was visible in Charlottetown, between five and six o'clock on Saturday evening.

Lecture.—J. H. Fletcher, Esq., will lecture in the Y. M. C Association, on Wednesday evening next,—Subject: "Six Weeks on Wheels."

Weights and Measures.—A Bill extending the law of the Dominion respecting Weights and Measures to this Island, has passed in the Commons.

Presented at Court.—The London *Times* of the 1st inst., states that Mr. Robert R. Hodgson was presented to the Queen at the Levee held at St. James Palace, on Feb. 29th, by the Earl of Carnarvon; and that Lieut. R. W. Davies, R. N., was, on the same occasion, presented by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

King's College.—Professors How, Oram and Steifelhagen have been elected Fellows of King's College. The President, Rev. J. Dart, has been appointed Proffessor of English Literature, Moral Philosophy, and Divinity. The Proffessorship of Clasics, vacated by the President, has been conferred upon Rev. W. E. Wilson, who having received a sound classicial education in England, has been engaged in teaching both in Bermuda and here; and has given proof to the Governers of the Colleges of his proficiency in the subjects which he is appointed to teach, and of his qualifications as an instructor.—*Church Chronicle.*

A Paper for King's County.—By advertizement in another column, it will be seen, that Messrs. McCourt & McMahon intend starting a paper in Georgetown. King's County should have a local paper; and we wish the young men—who are both practical printers—success. We cannot, nevertheless, conceal the fact, that the newspaper business is already much overdone in this Island, and the new beginners will have great difficulties to struggle against. A good daily and weekly in Charlottetown; and a good weekly in each of the three Counties would be ample in the newspaper line, for this Province.

MISCELLANEOUS.

America produces 1,000,000 paper collars in a day.

A despatch from Rome announces the death of Prince Doria.

It is thought that the Spanish army will be reduced 100,000 men.

The Oxford and Cambridge crews have begun practising on the Thames.

Negotiations with France for the cession of Gambia to England are at an end.

A despatch from Cape Palmas says the war in Liberia is nearly at an end.

A new Government is expected to be formed in France, with Gambetta as principal member.

The expidetion of the Governor-General of the Phillipine Islands against the Soloo pirates has been successful.

The French Chamber of Deputies has asked for 1,750,000 francs for the relief of the sufferers by the recent floods.

The average salaries of male teachers in the larger towns of Massachusetts, excluding Boston, are $156 per month; of female teachers, $46.

The French budget of 1877 estimates the Revenue at £634,400,000, and expenditure at £533,400,090; no increase of taxation being contemplated.

A deceased New York scissors grinder got rich enough to bequeath $8 000 to relatives in England, but his wife contests the will. She is bound to run her scissors through that document

The General Congress of the Women of Germany held at Gotha, adopted a resolution condemning the present style of woman's dress. Addresses were delivered calling on German women to struggle for their rights and especially the right to practice medicine.

A petrified human skull of peculiar shape, filled with crystals of a beautiful green color, was picked up in a gully, at Orena, Nev., a few days ago, and it is to be sent to the Smithsonian Institution for examination. The local savans consides it pre-adamite, and a proof of the antiquity of man beyond the usually accredited records.

The people of Great Britain consume on an average five and a half bushels of wheat annually per individual. The number to be fed is about 33,000,000. The crop the past year is estimated at 72,000,000 bushels. This opens a demand for about 100,000,000 bushels from other countries.

The Prince of Wales and the Royal party have had most exciting sport in Nepaul. At the end of a long day's chase a wild rogue elephant was captured. Four more tigers and one panther have been shot, the majority falling under the Prince's rifle. His Royal Highness and all the party are well.

The recent storm on the Pacific coast is said to have been very disastrous in California and Nevada. In the former State a great extent of young grain has been destroyed by floods, and in the latter, the heavy snowfall caused the death of thousands of cattle, the generally open winters leading stockmen to neglect to provide shelter for them.

Printer's ink is now considered one of the best substances for trapping the wingless female moths, which are the parents of the cankerworms, as they try to ascend the trees in spring to deposit their eggs among the branches. It must be put on very early in the spring, and must be renewed as often as it dries enough for the insects to pass over.

A cow belonging to W. D. Bronson, of Vermont, was turned loose the night of the 15th, and on the morning of the 16th was found to have a calf with two fully developed, equal sized heads, perfect in every respect, equal length necks, four legs, all perfect, two tails, two back bones the entire length, with ribs on each side of each back all covered by one hide.

MARRIED.

At Cambridge, Mass., March 7, at the residence, of Mrs. Foster, on Mount Auburn Street, by Rev. Mr. Stone, Mr. John A. Johnson, of Halifax, N. S., to Catherine N. McPherson, of P. E. Island.

At the residence of the bride's mother, on the 11th inst., by the Rev. Thos. B. McLean, Mr. Hubert C. Mills, to Miss Mary J. Tanton, both of St. Eleanor's.

At the residence of the bride's father, on the 14th inst., by the Rev. C. W. Hamilton, Mr. Joseph Rogers, of Bedeque to Miss Sarah Hall, of Summerside.

At the residence of the bride's mother, on the 22nd inst., by Rev. John M. McLeod, Miss Jessie Isabella, daughter of the late John Stewart, of French Fort, to George, son of the late Hon. M. Forbes, Vernon River.

DIED.

At Head of St. Peter's Bay, on 21st Jan. last, Mr. Allan McLean, aged 72 years

At Beach, near Murray Harbor, Feb. 17th ult., of consumption, Miss Annie McLeod, daughter, of Mr. John McLeod, in the 17th year of her age.

On Tuesday, 14th inst., at Elliot River, Lot 56, after a long illness, Mr. William Webster, in the 78th year of his age.

At Glenfield, Pownal, Lot 36, on Thursday, the 16th inst., Mr. James Cummiskey, aged 65 years. May he rest in peace.

At New Glasgow Road, on Monday the 6th inst., of brain fever, Sarah Jane, eldest daughter of William and Ann Seaman, aged 21 years.

Of scarlet fever, at the residence of Robert Campbell, Montague River, Lot 59, on the 25th of Feb., Margaret Campbell, aged 18 years; on the 27th, Matilda, aged 7 years; on the 29th, Grace, aged 20 years; and on the 5th day of March, Edward, aged 10 years, all children of Robert and Mary Campbell.

SUBSCRIBE for THE EXAMINER One Dollar and Forty Cents a year.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

To Reading Room and Examiner.

London, March 25.—The Royal Titles Bill making Queen Victoria Empress of India, was passed to a third reading in the House of Commons last night, by a vote of 207 to 134.

It is expected that the Spanish Government will send an energetic reply to the Pope's protest against the Religious Toleration clause.

In the Commons, Disraeli stated that Cave's Report on Egyptian Finances—at the request of the Khedive—would not be published. There has been a panic and a decline of 5 to 7 1-2 per cent on Egyptian securities, in consequence of Disraeli's statement.

New York, March 24.—The Book-keeper of the Marine Bank, of New York City, is a defaulter to the extent of $40,000. He has escaped West.

The Haytien insurgents are in full possession of Jacmel, and General Cavol is believed to be leading the revolutionists. Several engagements have taken place near Port au Prince.

Gold, 114⅜ to 114¾.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir:—On Wednesday morning last I sent the following letter for publication in the *Presbyterian*, whose proprietor seems more ready to indulge in false accusations than to afford me an opportunity for correction. May I ask the favor of the insertion of my letter in your paper.

Yours, &c.,
D. Currie.

March 24, 1876.

To the Editor of the Presbyterian.

Sir:—In your issue of the 2d inst., there appeared an editorial, in which though not named, I was charged with being a "self-interested office-holder," and a "fiery," "unscrupulous," and "unprincipled agitator." I acquit you of having penned the *religious* article in which these choice epithets occur, but you are responsible for its publication. When you were starting your paper, which was to be non-political, you in company with the Rev. Mr. McLeod, called upon me one evening to ask my advice about your advertising. You got my opinion then and I now have my reward. Are you, as a business man, in the habit of consulting advisers whom you believe to be "unscrupulous" and devoid of principle?

I am unable to speak of the clerical aid formerly given to the *Patriot* and its predecessor. For the 12 years I wrote for those papers I neither had nor sought any such assistance. When I joined the *Patriot* staff it had 1100 subscribers; I left it with a weekly issue of 3600 copies, and with such a record, I feel as indifferent to your "trap's" *kind* remberances as I am to his base slanders. I have a pretty good idea who my cowardly defamer is, and if he comes out over his own name, I am prepared to discuss the subject "principle" and "self interest" with *him*.

When you in Thursday's paper say that I am "co-editor" of the *Patriot*, you assert what is utterly untrue. My connection with that paper ceased in December, 1873, and since then I have had no more to do with its editorship than you have.

You speak of my opinions on the School Question. I have never concealed them, and in a free country I do not see why I should fear to state them before a man who selected and abandoned the profession of a Gospel minister. If I am wrong, I err in company with the Board of Education, who, *you know* patronize and pay for Catholic and separate teaching in Charlottetown.

I remain yours, &c.,
D. Currie.

March 25, 1876.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Dear Sir,—Would you kindly find space for the following?:—

During the Electoral contest here, last week, between Captain Richards and Mr. Hacket, Mr. J. F. White, sub-Collector of Customs for the port of Cascumpec, took a very prominent part in the proceedings.

I wish to know if the Dominion Government allow their revenue officials to take an *active* part in politics?

Is there any law, Dominion or Provincial, on the subject? Law or not, such conduct does not, to say the least, seem quite the thing. However, it might possibly have been ignorance on the part of the sub-Collector.

But, Sir, ignorance will hardly serve him as an excuse for the insult offered to the British Flag and Government, by having a Green Flag hoisted over a Union Jack on the same pole, the said pole being on a bonded warehouse. The people of Alberton hope that the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this matter, as they feel that any-one who will thus openly shew defiance and contempt for the flag of the Government under which he holds office, is certainly not the person to be entrusted with the execution of those laws the insigna of which he insults or allows to be insulted.

I beg, sir, to protest against the indignity offered the flag of our country, as well as the reflection cast on the people of Alberton and vicinity.

I am, &c.,
Number One.

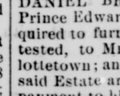
March 27, 1876.

P. S.—I may add that it is not the color of the flag I object to; but that it or any other flag should float over the Union Jack on British ground, is a little too much for

Number One.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE!



Whoa, Horse, Ho.

THE undersigned begs most gratefully to return many thanks to his numerous customers, friends, and a generous public for their liberal patronage during fourteen years' experience in the BLACKSMITH BUSINESS, and most respectfully asks for a continuance of the same. Having secured the services of a First-class assistant, we warrant satisfaction in

General Blacksmith Work!

And as our shop is in close proximity to the store of Messrs. J. Knight, Son & Co., who retail from a large stock of iron, steel, bolts, &c., we can do work CHEAPER THAN EVER.

☞ Those owing the undersigned, will please pay up at once.

PATRICK MacINNIS,
North Lake, Mar. 27, 1876.—3i Blacksmith.

DECLARATION.

I, the undersigned, do hereby solemly declare that the suspicious article, published against me in a Canadian and St. John paper, is an accumulation of the greatest calumny, falsehood and malice. In justice to myself and others, I shall take legal means to justify myself, and refute those slanders which have made me a victim of such a foul misrepresentation.

H. F. STEINLEIN.

Ch'town, March 27, 1876.—1in

FRUIT.

50 Boxes } Layer Raisins.
25 Hlf. do. }
50 boxes Turke Figs,
35 drums Malaga do.

For sale by
FENTON T. NEWBERY & Co.
March 13, 1875.—p a 2i

Executor's Notice.

ALL persons having any claims against the Estate of the late Honorable DANIEL BRENAN, of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, deceased, are required to furnish their accounts, duly attested, to Mr. JOHN GAHAN, of Charlottetown; and all persons indebted to the said Estate are required to make immediate payment to him, he having been authorized and appointed by me to receive the same.

Dated at Charlottetown, this 6th day of March, 1876.

PETER McINTYRE,
Bishop of Charlottetown,
March 13, 1876.—3m Executor

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

EXECUTOR'S SALE!

DRY GOODS, Hardware, Groceries, LIQUORS, WINES, &c.

I AM instructed to sell at AUCTION, at the Store, corner Queen and Sydney Streets,

On Wednesday, 5th April,

at 11 o'clock, all the extensive

STOCK IN TRADE

of the

LATE HON. D. BRENAN,

in part, as follows:

Dress Goods, Cloths, Grey Cottons Shirtings, Flannels, Tickings, Osnaburgs, Coat Canvass, Casbans, Jeans, Hosiery, Shawls, Fringes, Braids, Trimmings, Gloves & Braces, Th