incredible, but is very positively affirmed in Flensburg. Such was the exhaustion of the soldiers that there was no keeping them awake on duty. When the rear-guard, which so valiantly covered the retreat at Oversee, passed through Flensburg, after the Austrians had, through sheer fatigue, desisted from the pursuit, it was allowed half-an-hour's rest before proceeding further. The footsore, dejected men lay down in the street, and the inhabitants, Germans as well as Danes, seized with pity for their sufferings, took them out food.

THE SAVAGES IN DENMARK.

Having obtained possesion of that Duchy, the allied armies are now devoting all their efforts to secure the Island of Alsen. The Danes are acting simply on the defensive, and they have no choice but to resist. The Germans, conscious of their superior strength, and aware that, should they succeed in seizing Alsen and compelling the Danish army to capitulate, the entire kingdom of Denmark would be at their mercy, will hear of no proposals which do not imply the unconditional surrender of their force. The war must therfore be prolonged until the coveted prize is secured, even though its purchase should cost, as is by no means improbable, thousands of lives. That the Danes may eventually be obliged to succumb to superior numbers, is quite possible; but that they will lay down their arms so long as the power of resistance is left to them, appears most improbable. The Rigsdag, the army, and the people are on this point of one mind: and the cry of "no surrender" was never raised by the defenders of a beleaguered fortress with greater unanimity than it has been reiterated by the million and a half of people who inhabit the little kingdom of Denmark. There may be some diversity of opinion on the merits of the Dano-German dispute, but it is impossible to deny that in waging this unequal conflict, the Danes are influenced by the noblest and the holiest motives which can influence the human mind. It is not either for the sake of maintaining or of repealing a law which has not yet been put in operation that the Duchy of Schleswig is now made the theatre of a merciless war. No one whose judgment is not entirely obscured by prejudice can pretend that it is so. Whether the common Constitution of November does or does not incorporate Schleswig with Denmark, there can be no reasonable doubt that its rescision to-morrow would not cause the Austrian and Prussian armies to desist from bombarding Duppel or from attempting to force an entrance into the Island of Alsen. Matters have now reached that stage when nothing will content the invaders but the annihilation or submission of an army of some thirty or forty thousand men, crowded for the mere purpose of self-defence into a little island. The Danes have no alternative but to sell their lives as dearly as they can. The victorious Germans are not satisfied with appropriating the territory of their unfortunate neighbours; they must needs also cut their throats. It is not sufficient that the material guarantee should be seized, but the little army which supports the Danish Crown must be sacrificed on the altar of German unity.

DUPPEL AND ALSEN.

The strong fortified position of Duppel, considered by many equal to the Dannewerke, was formerly not fortified at all. Now seven independent works upon the crests of hills present a strong front towards the west, and lean upon the Alsen Sund at Suurlikke with the right wing, where they are flanked by batteries upon Alsen; with the left wing they join the Veninghond, or Southern part of the bay. The works are so constructed that they command the whole approaches as far as Slenderup. Four works are placed to the north of the road leading to the mill of Duppel, and three to the south. The earthen ramparts are nearly 20 feet high; the moats 12 feet deep and 20 broad; the gorges of the bastions are chiefly palisaded. Several batteries, armed with guns of the heaviest calibre, are placed between the works, especially between the Duppel mill and the landing-place of Freudentnal on the Venninghond situated so that the flanks are defended from the sea and the centre from the heights of Duppel. The Als Sound and Nubelmoer afford hostile gunboats ample opportunity of taking part in an engagement. The number of creeks and landing-places further enable an enemy to land his troops suddenly and unnoticed at points at which they can make demonstrations in the rear of the attacking party. Two *tetes de pont* serve to cover the passage at Sonderburg, one of which is a crown work. Several batteries are placed upon the heights of the Alsen coast. The passage to the Island of Alsen is not more difficult than across the Schlei. The arm of the sea between the island and the main land is narrower at many places than even the narrows of the Schlei. The Danish defence by no means commands all points upon the level shore, along which much ground available for artillery extends. The windings of the strait afford war ships neither view nor fire from the open sea, nor is the entrance devoid of danger. The Danish entrenchments upon the Island are strong, but few in number and extent; they are not even fully provided with guns, a large portion of their armament having been sent away to the Dannewerke.

THE GERMANS AT LOGGERHEADS IN DENMARK

The sudden and unexpected resolution taken by Prussia to obtain violent possession of Altona, Neumunster, and Kiel, has not only created great excitement and indignation in Holstein, but has nearly led to hostile collision at Altona. The Federal commander-in-chief feels that it will end by the recall of the Saxons and Hanoverians, and the civil commissioners see their power crumbling away under their feet. The assertion of the Altona journals that the despatch of Prussian troops was stopped, proved incorrect. Another battalion of Prussian infantry marched out to Altona, where they obtained quarters in the same manner as the first battalion—i. e., they were obliged to find lodgings for themselves, and naturally picked out the largest and best furnished houses. In the meantime a joint meeting of the court of Magistrates and the municipal council of Altona, was convened at the Guildhall to deliberate on what measures could be taken under the present altered state of affairs. The presiding burgomaster informed the meeting that on the 11th the Federal commissioners acquainted the magistrates that quarters were to be refused to Prussian troops. In a second communication they gave fresh instructions, to the effect that though it was an act of violence it must be passively borne but without giving any assistance or co-operation to the troops in their search for quarters. And, finally, the commissioner confirmed the contents of their first instructions of the 11th inst. The meeting then unanimously passed a resolution to protest in the name of the town against this unjustifiable act of violence, and to send copies of their protest to the Federal commissioners and the "ducal government" at Kiel. Just then another battalion of Prussians marched in, and after having vainly applied to the local authorities for quarters, and received refusals, proceeded to find lodgings for themselves. It is stated on good authority that the Prussians, foreseeing the difficulty of obtaining provisions for their troops in the present state of public feeling, are making arrangements for establishing a depot of their own, so as to be independent of the goodwill of the inhabitants in that respect. At Hesse Darmstadt, the Lower House has desired that the Federal force occupying Holstein should be increased, and that the Diet should send troops to occupy Schleswig in common with the two great German Powers.

VICTORIA.

The Melbourne parliament was to meet on Dec. 26, two days after the departure of the mail. The month had been characterised by the severest storm and the greatest flood in the Yarra ever experienced. Sandridge became an island, and the traffic was suspended for some days on the Hobson's Bay Company's lines. "The clearances of gold last week," says the *Argus* of Dec. 24, "amounted to 26,422oz., bringing the total shipments hence since the commencement of the year to 1,874,999oz., of which 1,536,387oz., were the produce of Victoria, and 338,612oz., transhipments from New Zealand vessels. The shipments to the corresponding date of the previous year amounted to 1,555,690oz., of which 1,662,351oz., were the produce of the Victoria gold fields, and 293, 348oz., transhipments from New Zealand vessels."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

There is no news of special importance from Adelaide. Political questions are in abeyance, and are likely to remain so for at least two months longer. The Governor has been on a tour in the southern parts of the colony, and even at the public meetings there, at which members of the ministry have been present with his Excellency, scarcely any one has ventured to talk politics except upon one or two questions of a purely local character. The total imports at Port Adelaide from the beginning of the year 1863 to December 19 have amounted to £1,815,503, and the total exports to £1,848,849. The value of the cereal exports from all parts during the same is £718,561 12s. 9d. The customs receipts have amounted to £153, 861 8s. 2d. and the railway receipts to £94,694 11s. 4d. The land sales receipts from the beginning of the year 1863 to December 24 have been £190,684 13s, the quantity sold being 157,582 acres.

JAMAICA.—Our correspondent at Kingston, Jamaica, writing on the 8th inst. says:—"The business transactions of the last fortnight have not been attended by an important changes or extraordinary movements. Without any great fluctuations in imported articles, the sales have been quiet and steady, being confined only to immediate wants. The non-arrival of the usual monthly steamer from New York due on the 31st ult., has contributed to limit purchases, as American advices are always waited for. In the produce market we have to notice a failing off in the supply of pimento, and, consequently an advancing tendency. Freights are plentiful, and the usual demand for this article to despatch vessels has caused the supply to fall short thus early in season. Other produce remained steady.

DREADFUL GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.

ELEVEN LIVES LOST!

The following account of the late terrible explosion at the Laboratory connected with the Military Magazine in Quebec, is condensed from the *Mercury* of the 5th instant:

About twenty minutes to twelve o'clock yesterday morning the city was startled by a report as though a whole park of artillery had been discharged followed by a concussion which shook it from one end to the other. It was soon discovered that the shock had been produced by the blowing up of a building between the guard house at St. John's Gate and the Magazine in rear of the Ordnance Stores, in D'Auteul Street which had been used as a laboratory for the preparing of cartridges, ammunition, &c., for the supply of the troops. At the time the explosion occurred, there was in this building a working party of seven men, engaged in the above mentioned duty. Captain Mahon, R. N., a corporal, and two gunners, were outside the West end, attending to the burning of a quantity of condemned short shell fuses, and two others were employed in carting the powder. There was about eight cwt. of powder in the building.

THE SCENE OF DESTRUCTION

Three explosions followed each other in rapid succession, belching into the air a lofty column of white smoke, in which heavy fragments of stone, logs of timber, rafters, official documents, cartridges, together with human bodies, and shreds of clothing, might be seen mingling, to an immense height, and falling in every direction far and wide. Led by these unmistakeable indications to the locality of the disaster, the excited multitudes hurried along until every avenue in the neighbourhood was completely blocked up. The ramparts commanding a view of the fire were at once taken possession of by all comers, and a detachment of armed military had to be immediately sent up to keep them as far back as possible, the authorities being apprehensive of other explosions. The scene that met the gaze of the spectator was one never to be forgotten. The laboratory, a substantial stone building, was completely and utterly demolished, not one stone being left upon another. Portions of the structure were scattered in every conceivable direction, the rafters and heavy timbers being blown about as so much tinder-wood or chaff.

FINDING OF THE BODIES.

It being well known that a number of men had been employed in the building, the first efforts of all present were directed to the extinction of the fire, and the saving of human life. One of the first who was reached was Captain Mahon, the Superintendent of the laboratory, who was found near the south entrance gate of the park, buried so deep in the snow and ruins, that persons going to the rescue actually trod upon his head, before he was extricated. Providentially his mouth was uncovered and he was able to attract attention. His first exclamation to the party who endeavored to remove the stones and timbers from about him was—"I am all right; where is my sergeant." Being a man of powerful build, and feeling confident in his powers of bodily endurance, he urged his rescuers not to be in a hurry with him, but to look to the others. Mr Edwin Hawkins, a foreman to the Military Store Department, and brother of the late Alfred Hawkins, author of the "Picture of Quebec," and other well known local publications, was at the moment of the explosion standing near the doors of the gun-shed, about thirty feet off, and received such severe contusions about the left temple, that he died in twenty minutes after being picked up. An aged pensioner, named Michael Doolan, was also found near the same spot, still living, but died in a few minutes in the greatest agony. In every direction near the scene of the disaster, the mutilated and almost irrecognizable remains of the unfortunate sufferers were discovered, some were imbedded in the snow, which was crimsoned with their life's blood, others where they had fallen and been hashed to pieces against the embrasures of the fortifications, which yet bear traces of these heart-rending and sickening incidents of the sad catastrophe. A limbless and severed trunk was found in this position, and sometime after various portions of human flesh and members which were thought to belong to the same body, were picked up, which had been blown over the rampart on to the glacis. Outside the gate it was stated that a headless body had been found, together with a thigh bone and a fragment of flesh attached to it.

From time to time, as the flames were got under, and the rafters and other ruins removed, the following additional bodies were recovered and identified:—John Thompson, Gunner, 10th Brigade, R. A.; George Russell, do.; D. Lewis, do.; William Baxter, do.; William Brace, do.; Thos. Burr, do.; Thomas Finn, do.; James Elmer, do.; John Flanagan, 98t Batt., 17th Regiment. These with Mr. Hawkins and Michael Doolan, make eleven bodies found, which is supposed to be the whole number of killed.

A gunner of the Royal Artillery named Morant was so severely injured, we learn, as to necessitate his immediate removal to hospital. Captain Mahon, at last accounts, was doing well.

NARROW ESCAPES.

The number of hairbreadth escapes and of slightly injured by the falling *debris* and window glass in various parts of the city will not be fully known before some days. Of those related, in addition to that of Capt. Mahon, we note a few. The sentinel on duty within the park gate, a private of the 62nd Regiment, named Porch, had his cartouch-box torn off his back, and his rifle wrenched out of his hands by the violence of the concussion. He was thrown to the ground, but sustained no injury whatever, except a few slight scratches. Corporal Bragshaw, R. A., who was outside the building in company with Capt. Mahon, and received no injury beyond the singeing of his hair and whiskers, states that he heard no noise—in fact, remarked nothing but the flash, prior to his becoming insensible, in which state he was picked up near the magazine wall. He was well enough to be on duty throughout the afternoon, but cannot account in any way for the origin of the disaster. A civilian, named Pressure, residing in Nouvelle street, and employed in the Ordnance department, was struck in the head and face by some flying splinters, receiving severe injuries. The sentry at St. John's Gate, though in the very centre of the falling fragments, escaped unhurt. It is a remarkable thing, that at that time of the day, when John street, our leading thoroughfare, is so generally crowded that the accidents were not more numerous.

THE LABORATORY.

This structure, the scene of the explosion, was erected, we believe, some four or five years ago, at considerable cost to the Imperial Government, and was one of the most solid and substantial buildings used for military purposes in the garrison. The walls were of cut stone, from two to three feet in thickness. The interior was divided into two floors, the entrance being through a work-room, with a store room on the right, and over it another room of similar dimensions—Captain Mahon's office being in the south-west angle of the upper storey. To prevent the possibility of accident, the floor leading from the front entry, through the work room to the office, was covered with leather matting, and all the employees were obliged to wear, while in the building, soft soled shoes, or deer skin moccasins. No stoves or fire was used, the premises being warmed by steam pipes from an adjacent wing, lately constructed at great expense. The window nearest to the spot where the fuses were being burned, was doubly glazed, which almost precludes the possibility of any sparks having entered the building from that direction, as was rumored, so that the origin of the calamity is likely to remain involved in mystery.

The vicinity of the disaster was thronged until a late hour last night with crowds of anxious visitors including many members of Parliament. In fact, so great was the rush during the afternoon, that sentries had to be detailed to keep them within bounds.

This will add another to the list of memorable calamities connected with the history of our ancient city. Since the burning of the theatre or of the steamer "Montreal," there has been no calamity more distressing in its details, nor none which has cast a greater damp over the community at large.

FROM THE STATES.

THE SITUATION.

Official reports from General Kilpatrick, dated on Friday, from Yorktown, recite the facts of the expedition of Colonel Dahlgren of James river, in which he drove the enemy in on Richmond, but was unfortunately seperated from his command, and is probably now in the hands of the enemy. The whole story of Kilpatrick's brilliant attempt, his dashing entry into the line of defences at Richmond, his shelling of the city and subsequent withdrawal when met by a superior force, and the combined movement of General Custer, are received.

A rebel attack on Newbern, North Carolina, is expected, and the greatest efforts are being made to resist it, by ordering out all the firemen and citizens generally to protect the city. A Newbern paper says that an army of fifty thousand men sent to North Carolina could effect all that the Army of the Potomac has been three years in vain trying to accomplish. With a force of that number we could take and hold both the grand lines of railroad communication through this State, by which the rebel army of Virginia is replenished and fed. Cut off his supplies from the South and South-west, and Lee must evacuate Virginia or starve.

A rebel mail recently captured in West Virginia reveals some interesting facts in connection with the condition of the rebels; but shows that considerable pluck, under very trying difficulties, is still one of the characteristic features of the rebels' nature. In one letter of a lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-second Virginia it is stated that the men have become indifferent to death; that they would rather perish on the battle field than entertain the idea of subjugation.

The steamar Columbia from New Orleans brings important news from Mobile. Our fleet opened a tremendous fire on Fort Powell on the morning of the 23d ult., and it was thought that it could not hold out long. The rebel ram Tennessee now lies under the protection of the guns of Fort Morgan. The women and children were being removed from the city. Admiral Farragut on board the Calhoun was inside Dauphin Island, and the flagship Hartford was at Ship Island forty miles west of Mobile. An attack on our blockading fleet was anticipated, providing that the rebel rams were in good order and condition.—*N. Y. Herald, March 6.*

The reverse in Florida was rather a disastrous affair. It appears that on the afternoon of February 6th the expedition under Gen. Seymour left Hilton Head, and landed at Jacksonville, Florida, on the next day. The advance then pushed forward, and bivouacked at Baldwin on the evening of the 9th. The cavalry then advanced, occupying Sanderson, on the road to Lake City and Tallahassee. Advices under date of February 12th stated that the Union forces were then within ten miles of Lake City, where the enemy were found, and with whom there was a prospect of having an encounter. Up to this time the Federals had captured a large amount of property, and anticipated but little opposition. When they reached Oulstee, which is between Lake City and Sanderson, they were met by about 15 000 Confederates, thoroughly prepared for attack, and the result was a great defeat.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from the scene of operations, says:—

"From the imperfect accounts we have it would appear that General Furman Seymour neglected the all important precaution of throwing out scouts and skirmishers, and the troops, therefore, advanced into a trap set by the rebels. The horses attached to the field pieces of Hamilton's battery were shot down by the sharpshooters, and the men in attendance suffered severely. The guns belonging to this battery had to be abandoned. The Fortieth Massachusetts Infantry, which had been mounted, were brought under a very severe fire, the effect of which was to cause them to retreat hastily, leaving their dead and wounded in the hands of the enemy.

During the advance our troops found themselves suddenly in front of a rebel battery, which opened upon them a galling fire almost before they were aware of its presence. The guns of the rebels were concealed by the woods, and the effect of their discharge upon the advancing force was fearful and demoralizing. The Union troops fell back in great disorder, and were perfectly panic-stricken."

A negro company of the First Mississippi infantry were surprised and cut to pieces by rebel guerillas, dressed in Union uniform, near Tecumseh Landing on the 14th ult., while standing guard for a foraging party from the steamer Pringle. Only two of the negroes escaped death or mortal wounds.

COLONIAL.

For some time past from the impossibility of parties being unable to deposit their earnings in the Provincial Saving's Bank the Archbishop of Halifax, in conjunction with some half dozen wealthy and influential gentlemen of the city, have determined to open a Bank of Deposit, where the industrious classes can invest their earnings. The same rate of interest, as allowed by the Banks, will be given. This move must commend itself to the public, as it will supply a want long felt by many who have desired to husband their means; and it will, we feel assured, give an incentive to members of our laboring population to become frugal in their habits. These institutions are very common in the old country and in the United States; and the one to be established in this city under the auspices of His Grace cannot fail to be successful as elsewhere. We presume that in a few days the particulars will be laid before the public. —*Halifax Express.*

A few days since, in the New Brunswick Legislature, the Provincial Secretary laid on the table a dispatch from the administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia, dated 8th Feby., relative to a Union of the Provinces. This dispatch conveys the intelligence that the Government of Nova Scotia intend to submit a resolution to the Legislature for the appointment of Delegates to confer with Delegates to be appointed by the Legislatures of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, respectively, for the purpose of arranging preliminaries for the union of such colonies under one Government and Legislature, when such Union shall have been agreed to by the respective Legislatures and confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen.

The death of Sir L. H. Lafontaine, Chief Justice of Lower Canada, in the 57th year of his age, is announced. He was born in Lower Canada. He amassed considerable fortune by the practice of his profession, and was at one time a very prominent politician. He was concerned in the rebellion of 1837, and fled the Province to avoid arrest of high treason, but he obtained pardon soon after, returning to the Province, and again entered politics. In 1853 he was made Chief Justice, and in 1854 was created a baronet of the United Kingdom for his "eminent services."

The man Hicks, who recently shot an old man named Hill in the woods near Dorchester, N. B., has made a confession, in which he states that his uncle, a man named Tingley, was the instigator of the crime, and held out inducements to him to shoot Hill. Hicks had twice before attempted to commit the deed, but failed; and after each failure was taunted with cowardice by Tingley. Tingley was arrested at Sackville on Thursday.

The Canadian Premier, J. S. McDonald, has been accused in the Canadian Parliament, of making an attempt to bribe two members of the Legislature at his dinner table. It is alleged that he offered to provide handsomely for a friend of one of them, but the hon. member was firm enough, although plyed with wine, to resist the temptation. Mr. McDonald refused to give an explanation when called upon to do so.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TENANT MEETING AT NEW LONDON.

MR EDITOR:—

Though unused to writing for the press, and though entertaining a wholesome dread of hostile criticism, I cannot resist the temptation of giving you a short account of a meeting lately held in the Institute building at South West River, New London. This meeting was called, it was said, for the purpose of devising means of putting a stop to the illicit sale of spirituous liquors in the vicinity of the above named place, but it soon appeared that its conveners had other objects in view than that of preventing Sutpi from selling grog on the sly. It would seem that the South West sages were seized with an extraordinary fit of diffidence, and during its continuance considered that their combined wisdom was insufficient to enable them to find a remedy for the abuse. They, therefore, called in the representatives of the district, Messrs. Montgomery and Haslam, to help them in their deliberations. The members being invited could do no less than attend. It was remarked that Mr. Haslam's usually important and self-satisfied manner was slightly tinged with embarrassment, and that a portentous document impatiently protruded itself from his coat pocket. Matters went on smoothly for a time. It is not my object to discuss the feasibility of the various plans proposed for putting down the daring and hardened rum seller; but I must say that if he continues to sell either rum, gin, brandy, whisky, or even spruce beer, with a stick in it, he is the most unconscionable dog alive—the most blather-proof rascal in existence. I will add that Mr. Haslam was most profuse in his promises of reforms, repeatedly declaring that during the comiug session the Government would remedy all sorts of abuses.

After no small amount of spouting, and an unparalleled display of eloquence, the real business of the evening was opened, by a "sea capting bold" stepping forward and requesting the members of Parliament, there present, to give the meeting an account of the success of the Delegation. W. Haslam, Esq, M. P. P., being thus called upon, rose and delivered a speech that the combined talents of Mrs Partington, and Artemas Ward could not have surpassed. Words of "learned length and sound" poured from the Hon. member's lips with a disregard of propriety, pronunciation, and arrangement that was really sublime; if anything was wanting to add to the effect of the display, the oracular tone, the pompous manner, and magnificent unconsciousness of the speaker, would supply the defect. The immense document was flourished before the faces of the audience, and the praises of Mr. W. H Pope were sung in language, which, had a short hand writer been present to take it down, the world would not willingly have let die. The ability and disinterestedness of that person were lauded to the skies, and when at last the humbling confession came from the Hon. member, that nothing had been done for the tenantry, his manner was as confident and his tone as exulting as if he was announcing a victory. The Hon. member did not dwell for an instant on the unpleasant topic, but leaving the dreary past, and the hopeless present, he revelled in glorious visions of the untried future. If nothing *had* been done for the tenantry, a great deal might, could, would and should be done for them, if they would only support the present Government. Here again the learned gentleman waxed eloquent by local legislation, hard terms were to be made easy, stony hearted proprietors softened, ignorant Colonial Ministers enlightened, and the tenantry made rich and happy. The good time that was coming inspired him with a flow of pollysyllables, which must have charmed the dullest, and cheered the most despairing of mortals. What a poet the Hon. gentleman would have made! He has certainly mistaken his vocation. With stubborn facts and unyielding figures, he is not at all calculated to deal; but among the glorious unrealities of poetry he is completely at home. That this estimate of his intellectual powers is a just one, was made abundantly evident during the subsequent proceedings of this meeting.

When Mr. Haslam ceased speaking, a bearded son of Anak made a speech in reply. He made no allusion to party, but called in question the soundness of the learned legislator's theories. He showed that no good could result from the adoption of the plans proposed by the Government, and that their only effect would be that of rivetting more firmly the chains that already fetter the tenantry. The man was evidently no visionary. There was very little of the poet in his composition. Mr. Haslam was very uneasy during the delivery of this speech, and if looks could kill, the sturdy Scotchman would certainly have been annihilated. As it was, he freely interrupted the speaker, and answered him in a style that attains among the denizens of the low places in the West end of Charlottetown. Instead of answering the objections, and endeavouring to refute the arguments of his opponent, he abused him with a truly feminine glibness of tongue. He accused him of being a Liberal, and here, Sir, you, the *Examiner*, and the Liberal party in general, came in for their share of abuse. He made some most astounding revelations. He declared that the prominent members of the Liberal party had formed themselves into a secret society to oppose the proceedings of the Government on the Land Question, though that Government should be able to buy up all the Township lands at two shillings per acre. He said that his opponent had obtained his ideas from the *Examiner*, as if the assertion alone were sufficient to upset all his arguments and to disprove all his statements. This novel mode of argumentation is, I understand, not confined to debating club discussions, but finds its way into places where both from the standing of the reasoner and the intelligence of the audience, better things should be expected. It appears that truth from the *Examiner* is no longer truth. If the *Examiner* were to assert that six times six are thirty-six, that three and five make eight, and that the whole is greater than its part, there are persons in this community who would immediately say that these assertions were a parcel of d—d lies, and that for their part they did not believe one of them. But to return to Mr. Haslam; he evidently thought he was addressing men who could not discriminate between abuse and argument—between wild theories and practicable plans. He is either a fool who cannot reason, or a knave who advocates a cause that cannot be supported by reason. I feared that our hirsute Liberal, big as he was, would be demolished by the fierce onslaught of the long and learned legislator; but my fears were groundless. No sooner had the M. P. P. ceased speaking than he was on his legs, and in plain, nervous language reviewed the conduct of the present Government, and compared its promises with its performances. He reminded Mr. Haslam of the language that he himself used before the late election with regard to the Duke of Newcastle; how he had said that the Government would bring the Colonial Minister to his senses, and force him to accept the Award. Mr. H. emphatically denied having used such language; but an appeal being made to certain parties there present who heard him use it, he quickly cooled off. The sturdy liberal challenged the member to a discussion of the policy of the Government, which he declined. The salt water politician before mentioned, then asked Mr. H. would it not be better to call meetings to discuss the subject? Mr. H. in a fluster replied, "No, no," the "Government is very cautious in this matter how they will act in it." Just so, thought I, if all the advocates of the Government are like those I had just heard, the fewer public discussions there are the better. How the people will permit their representatives to sacrifice their interests without expressing their opinion on the subject, is more than I can comprehend. REPORTER.

New London, March 16, 1864.

TENANT MEETING AT COVEHEAD.

At a large and influential Meeting of the Tenants and a number of Freeholders of Lot 34, held at the Saw Mill Bridge, on Monday the 7th inst., to discuss the propriety of the tenantry becoming their own negotiators with the Proprietors, the undersigned were appointed to draw up resolutions to that effect; and having considered the matter came to the following resolves:—

Whereas, the Land Question for a great many years has been a source of agitation and discontent to the tenantry of P. E Island; and many schemes have been devised to allay the same: And whereas a Royal Commission was instituted, with full power (as was supposed,) to finally and forever settle the long pending dispute, at a considerable cost to the Colony: And whereas a Delegation, authorized and constituted by the Government of P. E. Island to proceed to England for the same purpose, at considerable cost to the Colony; and all having failed to accomplish the long desired and much wished-for result, but rather have had a tendency to strengthen the claims and increase the demands of the Proprietors: And whereas the Proprietors have made proposals of settlement which we consider derogatory to the best interests of the Island, and entirely beyond the reach of nine tenths of the tenantry:

Therefore, resolved, That the tenantry of Lot 34, conjointly with the tenantry of the whole Island, do make in their turn proposals for the satisfactory adjustment of differences now existing between landlord and tenant.

Resolved, That the Tenantry of Lot Thirty-four shall have the privilege of purchasing the fee simple of their farms at a rate, say Ten shillings per acre for the best land in the Township, with a gradual decrease for the residue, according to quality and location, with a full and final relinquishment of all arrears of rent up to the year 1864.

Resolved, That it is indispensably necessary for the tenant to have six years given him for the fulfilment of his obligations to the Proprietor, according to the above scale.

Resolved That if the foregoing resolutions be not complied with, the tenantry will consider themselves justifiable in resisting, to the utmost of their power, legally, all coercive measures that may be employed by the Proprietor for the collection of rents.

Resolved, That all independent journals in the Island be, and are hereby requested to publish the foregoing resolutions in their columns.

ALEX ROBERTSON,
DAVID LAWSON, M. T.
ANGUS DARRACH,
ROBERT LAWSON,
MICHAEL REARDEN,
BENJAMIN HUGHES,
JOHN C. LEITCH,
} Committee.

Lot 34, March 14th, 1864.

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TENANTRY OF LOTS 49 AND 50.

After a brief notice, a large concourse of the Tenantry of Townships Forty-nine and Fifty, with many of the influential and respectable Freeholders of said Townships, met at Mount Mellick Schoolhouse, on Wednesday the 16th inst., at one o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of taking into consideration the now important, absorbing and agitated "Land Question," and the widely spread disaffection throughout this infant and much neglected Colony, in consequence of Proprietory influence and oppression, which has desolated many a rural habitation and driven many a promising youth an exile to foreign countries to seek encouragement and freedom, if not to shun the tyrannic grasp and slave-holding, rent-paying system of their native land,—a system that rends son and sire apart, and the domestic circle disconsolate and solitary. The Meeting was ably represeuted by tenant and freeholder, and prejudice, ere long, will be numbered among the things unknown and buried in oblivion. The freeholders in these localities are actuated by sympathetic feelings of commisseration towards their more unfortunate fellow tenants, conscious that the interests of both tenant and freeholder are, in this age of intelligence and progression, so amalgamated and intertwined, that what contributes to the contentment and prosperity of the one must ultimately affect the other. After further preliminary remarks, the prevailing opinion being that nothing short of a Right of Purchase upon equitable and similar principles as afforded the tenantry of other Township lands purchased by the Government of this Colony will reconcile the disquietude now extant in this Island, exasperated, embittered and outraged at the exorbitant and extraordinary propositions made by Sir S. Cunard and colleagues—propositions truly detrimental and ruinous to the interests of the Island, it carried into effect, &c.; therefore, the Meeting being declared organized by the appointment of Alexr. Smith, Esq., to the Chair, and Alexr. McNeill, Acting Secretary, the following Resolutions were submitted and unanimously carried, viz:—

Moved by G. F. Adams, Esq., seconded by Samuel Lane, Esq.—

Resolved, That this Meeting repudiate the propositions made by Sir Samuel Cunard and colleagues, as well as the present dissatisfactory slave-holding, rent-paying system, and that nothing short of a Right of Purchase will reconcile the disaffection, if not distracted state of the tenantry of Townships Nos. 49 and 50, and unquestionably that of the Island generally: therefore, be it resolved that this Meeting cordially approve, endorse and adopt the sentiments and resolutions of the Tenantry located on Lots 48, 35, 36 and 37, also those of the Tenantry in King's County, and situated on Lots 64, 63 and 61, and act, at all times, in conformity therewith as a combined and united Tenant Organization.

Moved by Mr. John W. Acorn, seconded by Mr. J. M. Grant—

Resolved, That it being the opinion and conviction of this Meeting that should the Government of this Colony negociate, comply and accept the extravagant propositions made by Sir Samuel Cunard and colleagues, that they will inevitably entail ruin and misery, if not create anarchy and confusion upon and among the Tenantry of this locality and the Colony at large, and considered by this Meeting unconstitutional without the concurrence and consultation of the respective constituencies.

Moved by Mr. Edward Grant, seconded by Mr. Wm. Crane, senr.—

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Meeting be inserted in all the independent periodicals of this Island.

After a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his admirable, efficient and truly able and impartial conduct in the Chair, the Meeting gave three cheers for our gracious and beloved Sovereign the Queen, and dispersed in the most orderly manner and unanimity of sentiment. ALEX. MCNEILL, Sec'y.

Mount Mellick, Lot 49, March 16th, 1864.

LINES FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Arise ye sons of Erin's Isle,
The gem that decks the west,
Exchange with me a greeting smile,
O'er hoary ocean's breast,
And ye, in every distant art,
Where're the sun shone on,
Reciprocate each Irish heart,
That smile with Erin's son.

O, had I wings, with ardent speed
I'd strive to reach her shore,
Each hill, and dale, and verdant mead
I'd lovingly explore,
Each grotto, lake, and rivulet,
Of echo's hundred sounds,
Each grand old river's sides beset
With sylvan, flowery bounds.

Each rarity of Nature's hand,
In water, stone, and wood,
As ornaments, to adorn the land,
Cast 'rom the ark and flood,
Each castle, tower, and holy fane
That consecrates her soil,
Whence luminaries o'er the main
Went forth to sacred toil.

And from her mountain's summit, I
Would view with rapturous gaze,
And in her hallowed dust descry
The heroes of her lays—
Who agitated, fought and bled,
In freedom's noble cause,
And only when the soul had fled,
Were crowned with true applause.

The golden emblems in the air,
That holy incense shrouds,
Exhaled with sacrifice and prayer,
While anthems pierce the clouds;
And think I'd see sweet spirits rise
Transparent, pure, and bright,
To make abode in far off skies,
And share in Jove's delight.

And Piety and Genius, too,
In sympathy combine
On wings of Eden's richest hue
With form and face divine,
Behold inspire a shepherd youth
With worship's burning flame,
To spread the light of lofty truth,
And love and peace proclaim.

And as old time, from age to age,
Sped on nutiring wing,
The great divine, the bard and sage,
His praise, discourse, and sing;
And Erin's sons and daughters fair,
In every clime display
The Shamrock's natal, joyous air
On great Saint Patrick's Day.

Charlottetown, March, 1864. H. A. B.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, March 21st, 1864.

COLONIAL PARLIAMENT.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

ON Wednesday last at 3 o'clock, p. m., the Legislature of this Colony was opened with the usual formalities. We insert below the Speech of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, which will be found to be about as interesting and original as all similar preceding emanations from the Executive mind of this Colony.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Your Address of congratulation to your Sovereign on the marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been laid before the Queen, and Her Majesty was much gratified by the expressions which it contained of loyalty and attachment to her throne and person.

You, I am confident, warmly participate in the joy to which the birth of a Prince has given rise throughout Her Majesty's dominions.

I am desired by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to inform you that Her Majesty has not been able to comply with the prayer conveyed in the Address which you adopted during last Session, on the subject of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the differences between landlords and tenants.

It is the wish of the Secretary of state, that in communicating this decision to you, I should invite your attention to suggestions made by His Grace in a despatch which will be laid before you.

His Grace, in this despatch, proposed that the local Government should be authorized to issue, annually, a certain amount of debentures, and to apply these debentures in assisting to buy up the landlords' rights, with their consent.

His Grace further proposed that sales should not be compulsory on the landlords, but that a fixed rate of commutation should be indicated, by authority, as the Government price. That this assessed rate of purchase, viewed as receiving a certain moral support from Government, should regulate the amount of assistance to be given in each case from public funds.

As the terms of commutation proposed by his Grace were in some respects less favorable to the tenantry than those which had already been offered by the proprietors, and as it seemed likely that little practical good would result from their adoption, in consequence of his Grace stating that they would not be compulsory on the landlords, it was deemed expedient that Delegates should be sent to England to ascertain the views of Her Majesty's Government, and to facilitate a settlement of the question.

The Report of the Delegates will be laid before you.

After mature consideration of this Report and of the whole question of a settlement, I trust your best efforts will be directed to maturing such measures as may not only conduce to the amelioration of the condition of the tenantry, but also receive the sanction of the Imperial Government, and the concurrence of the proprietors.

The Administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia has addressed communications to me on the subject of a proposed Union of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, under one Government and Legislature. I have directed that these communications be laid before you.

A Bill to prevent the fraudulent marking of merchandize will be proposed to you. You will also be asked to take under your consideration a suggestion made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the establishment of a Maritime Court of Enquiry into the causes of wrecks.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Estimates for the current year will be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy.

The Accounts for the past year will also be submitted to you. I observe, with great satisfaction, that the Revenue of the past year far exceeds that of any previous year, and leaves a large surplus over the expenditure.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I rejoice to be able to congratulate you on the general prosperity of this Colony during the past year.

The labors of our agricultural population were blessed with an abundant harvest.

An unprecedented demand increased materially the value of our staple produce; and the quantity which left our shores exceeded the export of any previous year.

I now commit to you the business of the Session; may your deliberations conduce to the honor and welfare of this Island.

On Friday and Saturday the House of Assembly was engaged in discussing the Answer in reply to the Governor's Speech, in which discussion the Land Question, in all its bearings, was reviewed. The discussion, as we write, (on Saturday evening,) is still going on; and when concluded we shall offer some remarks upon it.

There has been no other business of any importance before the House.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE'S PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE LAND QUESTION.

THE following is the Despatch from the Duke of Newcastle, of the 11th July, 1863, referred to by the Hon. Mr. Coles in his Letters to the Tenantry, published in this paper, wherein His Grace submits proposals for a settlement of the Land Question, which are much more favourable to the tenantry than those which have been made by the Delegates to the Colonial Office, or the terms offered by the Proprietors:—

No. 24. DOWNING STREET,

SIR;— 11th July, 1863.

I have received your Despatch No. 34, of the 9th of April, transmitting an Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Council and Assembly of Prince Edward Island, on the subject of the recent Land Commission.

The Council and Assembly after stating at length the appointment of a Commission to examine into the Land Question, the nature of the recommendation or Award submitted by them to Her Maj