MISCELLANEOUS.

Object of Embalming in Egypt in Ancient Times.—A French chemist, M. Jules Fontenelle, in a discourse pronounced on occasion of the opening of an Egyptian mummy in the amphitheatre of the Sorbonne at Paris, has delivered an opinion respecting the cause of embalming in Egypt, that the Egyptians were led to it from physical necessity. During four months of every year, the inundations of the Nile cover almost entirely the whole surface of Egypt which is under cultivation. Under the reign of Sesostris, for an extent of territory for about 2250 square leagues, according to D' Anville, there would be a population of 6222 persons per square league, which would present 250,000 deaths per annum. These corpses must be gotten rid of either by burning or by interment. If by the latter, they must be buried around the inhabited spots, or in those which were inundated by the Nile, and then the decomposition of those bodies would have been a source of destruction; and for burning, there was an insufficiency of wood. But the soil of Egypt abounds in springs of natron (super-carbonate of soda); and as this substance is perfectly antiseptic, the inhabitants were naturally led to preserve with it the corpses of the dead. In support of the opinion, that sanitary views were the cause of embalming down to the third century before the Christian era, when the practice was abandoned, M. Fontenelle observes, that during the whole of that period, the plague was unknown in Egypt, where it is now endemic.

'The Secret of Great Acquisitions.—The chief art of learning," says Socke, "is to attempt but little at a time. The widest excursions of the mind are made by short flights frequently repeated; the most lofty fabrics of science are formed by the continued accumulations of single propositions."

Deluge in the Planet Saturn.—In a recent work entitled "The New Theory of Creation and Deluge," among other startling predictions it is stated, that it is probable the rings which surround Saturn are composed of water, snow, or ice, which at some future time may descend and deluge the planet, as ours was deluged in the days of Noah. It now appears, that this event is likely to take place a little sooner than was anticipated, for Sir David Brewster says:—"Mr. Otto Struve and Mr. Bond have lately studied with the great Munich telescope at the Observatory of Pulkoway, the third ring of Saturn, which Mr. Lassels and Mr. Bone discovered to be fluid. These astronomers are of the opinion, that this fluid ring is not of very recent formation, and that it is not subject to rapid change; and they have come to the extraordinary conclusion, that the inner border of the ring has, since the time of Huygens, been gradually approaching the body of Saturn, and that we may expect, sooner or later, perhaps in some dozen of years, to see the rings united with the body of the planet."

Effects of Fashionable Bonnets.—An eminent medical gentleman in London, writing to a friend in Bristol, says:—"I have to lament the great increase, amongst the female part of my practice, of tic-doloreux in the forehead, loss of sight, and great suffering in the ear, induced, I firmly believe, from the present absurd fashion of dressing the neck instead of the head. During the past month I have been in attendance upon two lovely girls, with tic-doloreux in the forehead, and several others with simiar complaints. It is high time, that the frivolous bonnets of the present day should be done away with."

(For Haszard's Gazette.)

To the Electors of the First District of King's County.

As it will be some time, before a full report of the proceedings of the House of Assembly, can be published, I shall take the opportunity to give you my opinion, of the matters we have had before the Legislature. The appropriations for roads and bridges, have been applied to suit the wants of the public generally; as far as our knowledge, and the means at our disposal would allow. The new roads, or roads to be opened as petitioned for, are to be surveyed, and the particulars reported to the House next session.

Your petition, to have the Legislative Council elected, was the principal one on that head, presented to the House. There were many petitions on that subject sent to Members; but the signatures were attached to printed forms, and it is a rule in parliament, that printed petitions cannot be received; and therefore it was a good excuse, that the wishes of the people (because they were not written) should not be attended to or complied with.

According to Responsible Government, whoever receive pay for their services, ought to be either elected by the people, or made responsible, that is removable by the peoples representatives To take the public money to pay a body of men, who are no way responsible, is a great encroachment on the liberties of the public; and the people ought to persist on their being made elective.

But the public may well feel alarmed, when they find their petitions disregarded; and inroads making on their liberties. Not only without any petition from the people, but before the people could have any notice or warning of the measures intended, so as to have time to make their objections, a Bill is brought in, in the latter part of the session, hurried through both branches of the Legislature, and passed into an Act; to curtail the liberties of the people by making the districts smaller, to make room for six more Members, and to add a fifth to the cost of the House of Assembly, for the public to pay. It is frequently the case with *some persons*, when they are too well paid, to require more hands to do the work.

By the constitution, which was given by the King to the people of this Colony; every Elector in the county, had a vote for four Members to represent them; and it could seldom happen, that any electors, would be left without one or two Members to take care of his interest; and then every Member felt it his duty to attend to the interest of the whole County; but when the Counties are divided into small districts, and the Electors having only two votes, there are many of the Elector left unrepresented. Therefore to divide the Counties into districts, and then again to make those districts smaller, is to curtail and not to extend the liberties of the people. But the objects appear to be now the same as when the first division of the Counties were made; viz., to cut out districts for certain persons, where they expected to be returned, who would not have been returned for the County. The King gave us liberties, and those who were chosen to preserve them, eat them up to fatten themselves. It is said that a Negro makes the most unfeeling and tyrannical driver, and by that rule the self-styled liberals intend to work the people, but keep all the liberty to themselves.

Your petition, to have the Landlords, Titles investigated, and your disapproval of the purchase of the Worrell Estate; was not allowed to go into Committee to be enquired into, and the reason assigned for that disrespect, was, that the people in other parts of the Island, had not petitioned, and consequently it is taken for granted, they are satisfied to remain as they are.

The people may see now; if they could not see before; that the promise held out by Members of the Government that they would purchase the Townships, and settle the Tenantry at a price, not exceeding 7s 6d per acre for their land, was a mere delusion, to prolong time, and weary out the people with delay; and the purchase of the Worrell Estate, without investigating the titles, was to confirm forfeited grants by that example. The tenantry on the Worrell Estate, have had to pay on an average 11s per acre, or £60 per 100 acres; and as it is said, that there are 300 Tenants settled by that purchase, at the cost of £24,000 to the public; they have been settled at a cost to the Colony, of about £80 for each settler, over and above the £60 or £70 which the Tenant had to pay. The reasons for this loss, appears to be, the Estate was purchased purposely, to pay salaries to officers. Then there is the interest on the debentures given for the Estate,—The land Tax for the land sold—The commissioner, surveyor, and wood rangers' salaries will eat up all the rest of the money, as fast as the people can pay for the land.

I had intended some years ago, to have tried the Landlords' Titles in the Supreme Court, as the only remedy for the settlement of that question. But the people were so fully persuaded then, that the self-styled liberal Government, would settle the tenantry by purchase; it was necessary, that I should defer the trial, and give the Government full support, and a fair chance for the people to see, that the Government failed in their measures, without any one to blame but themselves, as it was necessary that the people should see, that they have been deceived, before anything else could be proposed to them for their relief.

I applied to Mr. Hume, M. P. when I was in London for advice, when Lord John Russell refused to see me, and when he had made himself acquainted with the Land question. He said, it was a system of *fraud* and the remedy was at *Law*, and that a case should be tried in the Island, and if it went against the people, should be sent to England. But at any rate, a case should be tried in the Island, before petitioning the Imperial Parliament. On my return to the Island, it was agreed at a Meeting at Sentiner's that a case should be tried, and I thought it was understood, how it ought to be conducted, when a contribution was commenced, to defray any loss or expense which might accrue, to which I gave £20, but I learned afterwards, that the money was spent in some dispute about land, in which the tenantry were in no way interested. But the only ground for such a trial, is the forfeiture of the Grants and the false representations of the Landlords that they had a right to sell and lease forfeited Land, which induced the people to believe and attain to them, and (the only plea which the tenant could plead against the Landlord) was never stated to the Court, and as this failure frightened the tenantry at that time, and some were ruined by their fear; it is necessary, that I should state the case more fully, that one neighbour may safely contribute to assist another to try the question at Law, and bear in mind there have been more battles lost by fear than ever were won by valor.

It is declared on the face of the Grants; that unless foreigners are settled within four years from its date; the whole of the Township shall be forfeited, and the grant shall be void and of no effect. The grantee had no power in the grant now by Law, to sell or lease land to a British subject, and as the grants were not for the settlement of grantees, but expressly for the settlement of other persons; when the government refuse to enforce the forfeiture, they corruptly allow impostors to practice a fraud on a British public.

For the Landlords to say, that they had indulgence to settle British subjects in lieu of the foreigners is false, because nothing less than an Act of Parliament, with the royal assent, could authorize such an indulgence, to allow one class of subjects who are defaulters to deprive other industrious men of their birthright. But the Royal assent could not be obtained to an Act of such iniquity.

Therefore these and all sayings of the Landlords, and their agents, to induce a belief that they had a just and lawful right to sell, and lease forfeited lands to British subjects, are equally false, and are uttered with a fraudulent intent, to acquire money by false pretences. But the purchase of the Worrell Estate, is a fraud of a far deeper dye. Because the men who perpetrated that fraud, were some elected, and all paid, to protect the public rights on behalf of the sovereign. But as neither government nor Landlords, have shown a disposition to do justice to settle the tenantry, the only remedy is to bring them to trial in the Supreme Court.

When the property of a tenant is distrained for rent, the tenant ought to replevy, and state his case to the Attorney General, viz. That the land is forfeited, and the grant void, or that there is no grant on record, (as the case may be) that the landlord assumed to be the lawful owner of the land, by false representations, and consequently had no right to give a lease or demand rent, and if the Attorney General refuse to defend the tenant on those grounds, the tenant must state his case to the Judge in open Court, or if the tenant cannot state his case, have it written and read in open Court, so that the Judge shall hear of the forfeiture of the land, and the fraud of the Landlord, and it will then remain with the Judge to direct the case. The same defence may be made against the demands of any writ, note, or Bond given for rent, or for the price of any part of the Township land or to any other dispute with the Landlord concerning the land.

The Supreme Court will not likely try the forfeiture, but suspend judgment, until the forfeiture is investigated in a Court of Escheats. But when the forfeiture is found, the Supreme Court will try the fraud, and award damages to the injured party, or punish the offender. The same course is open to the persons on the Worrell Estate. That land is not revested in the Crown; and that purchase is a fraud on the public, as much as the sale is a fraud on the individual tenantry.

My opinions are not depending on the advice from the late Mr. Hume; but are supported by the following authority. Judge Blackstone in treating of the rights of persons, vol. 1 page 141, says, "That every subject for injury done to him, by any other subject, shall have his remedy at Law, freely without denial, and speedily without delay."

"And to obtain Justice and right, does not depend on the arbitrary will of any Judge, nor yet upon the Royal authority. But is permanent and fixed by Law—that no freeman, shall be deprived of the benefit and proteclion of the Law. It being enacted, that no commands or *dispatches* shall be sent, under the great seal, or the little seal, the signet or the privy seal to disturb the Law or delay common right, and though such commandments or *dispatches* should come, the Judges shall not cease to do right. As it is made a part of their oath by statute, it being declared by more than one statute, "That the pretended power of suspending or dispensing with Laws, by royal authority is illegal without consent of Parliament."

And from the same authority, Vol. III. page 260. "If a grant from the Crown to one party is injuirous to other parties, they will be allowed, on proper application, "to use the name of the Sovereign to have the grant repealed." Now as parties can proceed against a grantee by due course of Law, to repeal a grant which is in full force, to remove an injury or an oppression, the people of this Colony have a far better right to proceed against impostor Landlords whose grant is void and of no effect, or Landlords who have no grant whatever.

Every deception, which avarice and dishonesty can invent, has been and will be practised, to lead the country peoplo astray, to deprive them of their rights, and for which they must prepare. It is too late to try the Landlords' titles; but the Earl of Durham in the year 1839, said, it was not too late then, for every application of the people for a trial of title renewed their claims afresh; and Earl Grey admitted, that the Land question was not settled in the year 1851. But even if it were too late, which it is not, that should not be taken on hear-say, but decided by a court of Law. And if it should be so decided, that it was too late, that decision would be against the Government, who are bound to protect the people in their rights. For the Government could not refuse for so many years, to put the Law in force, and then say, it was too late to do justice, or blame the people for the neglect or guilt of Ministers.

It would have been far better, if the Land question had been settled by the Government. But when they will take no other way, but to make fraudulent purchases—to compel the tenantry to pay for their own improvement—and run the Colony more and more in debt. The only remedy to obtain the desired settlement, is to bring the matter before the Supreme Court for trial.

I shall send a copy of this to each of the newspapers, that all electors who take a paper may know my opinions, on matteres relating to their interests.

I remain,
according to my ability
their faithful servant,
William Cooper.

City of Charlottetown, April 28, 1856.

To the Editor of Haszard's Gazette.

Sir,—I am about to erect a small Dwelling House on a building lot I lately purchased, and a few days ago while I was measuring and marking off the dimensions of my Cellar for the excavators, a friend came along and said I had measured in too much of the Street, and that I would have the Mayor and Corporation overhauling me if I dug out so far. Now, sir, I declare to you that I had only taken in eighteen inches of the Street, which I could not do without, as I required eighteen inches in my rear to make up room for my stable, and I had only measured off six feet square of the Street for my Cellar hatch, a by no means unreasonable size for the purpose, as I explained to my friend: he, however, insisted very officiously as I thought, that I had exceeded what is customary. Now, Mr. Editor, it is a great bore to have *friends* thus meddling with one's business. As for the Mayor and Corporation, God bless their Honors, I know they will not interfere with me at all, any more than they do with themselves, or any one else who has occasion for a piece of the public street to increase the size of their ground; it is only *common* pieces of land which they trouble themselves about: and as for my exceeding what is customary; why, is it not customary for every one when he builds, to take as much of the Street as suits his convenience without molestation or vexation of any kind; and as for the talk people make about the danger of the cellar hatches, old or new, being allowed in the Street, why, a little danger of that kind is the best thing that could ever happen to keep the horses and carts off the side platforms, or they would be dropping into our cellars like children and stragglers occasionally do now, not to say how the horses would crush to powder the good old platforms, so many of which are so soft and easy to one's corns. No, say I, long life to the present Mayor and Corporation, as long as they hold office we will not be denied as much of the Street as we want, when we find our ground too small for our purposes, nor will our corns be troubled with hard walks either.

Your very humble servant
to command,
A Quiet Citizen.

April 28, 1856.