

TREATMENT OF THE FENIAN PRISONERS.

SPEECH OF HON. JOHN FRANCIS MAGUIRE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following, which we take from the Cork Examiner of May 11, is a full report of Mr. Maguire's observations in the recent debate on the treatment of the Fenian prisoners:

Mr. Maguire (whose opening sentences were all inaudible in consequence of calls for Mr. Bright) said—I am sorry, sir, to interpose between the house and my honorable friend the member for Birmingham, but in justice to the unhappy men I now represent, I cannot possibly waive the privilege which I possess. I rise for the purpose of calling attention to certain statements which, appearing in the Irishman newspaper, have been widely circulated by the public press in the United Kingdom, and which are sure to be copied into every English printed newspaper in the British Colonies, and throughout the United States of America. These statements purport to be extracts from the diary of one of the political prisoners now undergoing penal servitude in the Government prisons of this country.

I may here remark that I feel convinced that the conductors of the Irishman would not have inserted that communication if they were not fully satisfied that the statements which it contained were made in honesty and good faith. It is due to the honor of this house, and to its character for honesty and consistency, that these statements should receive the gravest attention and the most patient consideration. (Hear, hear, and interruptions.) I shall not attempt to condense statements, the reading of which will occupy but a few minutes, nor shall I substitute my own language for that in which the alleged facts are so simply stated. I do, sir, ask at least from Liberal English members, with whom I am associated for the purpose of giving freedom to the people of England, their attention while I place before the house the details of the gross and grievous indignities to which political prisoners have been subjected in the Government prisons of the British Empire. (Cheers.) In the depth of winter, according to his statement, the fannels were taken from the prisoners, and their clothes removed from their cells at night. In one prison, when the bell rang, at a quarter to nine o'clock at night, they were all stripped naked, and taken their clothing in the cold till the warders came to take their clothes away. It was stated that one of the prisoners, Lynch, caught cold, and died from the loss of his fannels. The great which they got for support had such an effect on Luby and Keane as to cause dysentery. On complaining to the doctor he said they were "malingering." From thenceforth while at Pentonville they got nothing but bread and water, and they could not take the gruel. They were all told on removal that it was for the benefit of their health they were sent to Portland. On their arrival they were kept one hour stripped naked, waiting for inspection by the doctor. Any one who attempted to make a statement to the doctor about his health was told rudely to hold his tongue. Kickham was then suffering severely from scrofula, caused by bad air and loose diet. Roantree was suffering from bleeding piles. (Mingling laughter.) He could see nothing laughable in the statement he was making. (Opposition Cheers.) I confess, sir, I do not envy the feelings of the man who can make such misery an object of mockery. (Hear, hear.) "Roantree" the diarist said, "I was suffering from bleeding piles. Although he made several applications to the doctor he was still kept working in the quarries, losing large quantities of blood every day. The place where he stood while working used to be saturated with blood. He at length, on applying to the director, was taken to the hospital, and after having been some time treated there, was pronounced incurable. In the week ending October 12 he lost a quart of blood. His first employment at Portland was washing the convicts' clothes, in a room, the temperature of which was 140 deg. Several got sickness from washing the infirmity linen. Charles Underwood O'Connell fainted from loathing. Kickham, notwithstanding the state of his health, with ulcers all over his body, was employed with the rest. He was obliged to be removed to hospital, where he remained for three weeks. Before he was cured he was sent to the quarries to break stones. The overseers, constantly abused him because he was not able to do more work. Owing to his extreme shortsightedness he was unable to do as much work as others; on this account the officers often showed him about in the most brutal manner. He remained at work about three weeks, although in a wretched state of health. All this time the doctor never inquired after him, but at length he became so bad he had to be removed in the middle of the night to hospital. He there had to apply to the director for better food. He said, in reply, that he had no authority to order it to him. He was invalided and sent to Woking. (Seven or eight have been invalided within twelve months after their conviction.) At Woking Mr. Kickham, a man of education, of refinement and genius, was associated with a monster in human form. The sufferings he endured in consequence are too shocking to more than merely allude to. At Portland the most arbitrary and contradictory orders were given by the governor with reference to communication between the prisoners. The tools furnished for breaking stones were so bad that one prisoner, Martin Hanley Carey, broke two of his fingers, and before he was cured he was compelled to go to the quarry and break with his left hand. By a refinement of cruelty, Luby was refused a letter which had come from his wife, and such was the effect on his mind that he was threatened with brain fever. These political prisoners were compelled to clean out the water closet every Monday in their turn. It was further stated that those men were kept working in the rain till their ordinary covering was completely saturated, when they were put on a serge shirt, and were marched to a shed which they could not leave until the officer in charge whistled, and they were then obliged to go to bed in their wet clothing." I do not dwell on the fact that they were subjected to the most arbitrary restraints and the most contradictory orders. One day they were compelled to speak in a low voice, another day they were ordered to converse in a loud voice, and a third they would not be allowed to speak at all. These then are the complaints, or the substance of the complaints, made in the name of the unhappy men who allowed themselves to be involved in the Fenian conspiracy, and are now suffering the most terrible punishment for a political offence. Now, sir, if there be any assembly in the world in which a broad, a wide, and strongly marked difference has been made between offences of a political character, and offences of a moral nature, that assembly is the British House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) I have heard the most eloquent denunciations, from both sides of this House, lavished on governments—foreign governments—wicked governments—the conspirator or the insurgent in the same category with those whom all civilized nations regard as branded felons—men whose infamous crimes have justly condemned them to a degrading doom. The English people, speaking through their Parliament, their pulpits, their platform, and their Press, have pronounced solemn judgment on the sins of other governments in this respect; and are they to play the contemptible part of the hypocrite and the Pharisee, and shrink from applying to the conduct of their own government, or those for whom that Government is responsible, terms which they so lavishly apply to others? (Hear, hear.) Sir, I do not for one moment think that they would sanction, under any plea or pretence whatever, the perpetration of these cowardly and inhuman brutalities—on men, too, untainted by moral crimes—by men who have offered their resistance to foreign governments and foreign rulers. (Hear, hear.) Sir, let honorable gentlemen who hold opposite opinions to those held by the mass of mankind, say what they please and think it is impossible for them to bridge over the impassable gulf which separates political offences from crimes of moral turpitude—(hear, hear)—and the attempt to conform them by similarity of punishment and degradation only revolts the moral senses and outrages the feelings of every humane and enlightened people. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I hope there is not a man in this house who would not

be ashamed to rise in his place, and justify the treatment to which these unhappy Irish prisoners have been subjected. You hear of these men being kept for an hour awaiting the inspection of the doctor—of food causing them the most cruel sufferings—of one man with the blood dropping from him on the ground while he toiled at his work; of another who had broken two of his fingers, and before the right hand was cured was compelled to work with his left; of men of education and feeling degraded to the loathsome task of emptying privies in their turn. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I say it is shameful—infamous—and the man who rises to defend it will be rebuked by the indignation of the English people. And God knows, sir, penal servitude is punishment enough for patriotism the most erratic or the most misguided. Its utter isolation from the active moving world—its severance from all those ties which human affection, the love of the husband and the father, coils round the heart of man—its terrible monotony, its more terrible association—the coarse and scanty food, the hard and ceaseless toil, the gulf of shame, the cage-like cell, the brutal insolence of the unsympathizing jailers—surely, sir, this is punishment enough, even for him who has loved his country "not wisely, but too well," without superadding to it what is cruel and shameful indignities. (Cheers.) I shall now, sir, ask the right hon. gentleman the Home Secretary if his attention has been called to certain statements which lately appeared in the newspapers in reference to alleged harsh and cruel treatment of prisoners undergoing penal servitude for political offences; and if so, whether he made any inquiry with respect to them, and taken any steps or given any orders in consequence? and I would further ask him whether, if such statement be true, the treatment which they represent as inflicted on political prisoners is not opposed to the frequently expressed opinion of this assembly, and a violation of the unwritten law which is cherished in the heart of every civilized nation? (Hear, hear.)

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir;—We assure you we have no passion for breaking a butterfly on the wheel, and should not have noticed a slanderous correspondence which formed the subject of an article over the signature of "Watchman" in the Patriot of a late date, if it were not for the insolent temerity with which the author has attempted to treat, occasionally, private character, and other subjects of an important nature, such as his knowledge of Trigonometry (words used for mere sound sake.) They say he is an adept at that, which certainly requires more than an ordinary acquaintance with professional topics, and more than Mr. McVane would lead us to believe he possesses, from the scientific manner in which he measured the cliff in question last summer. I was really of opinion that we had partly succeeded in effecting a silence on a matter of so little public importance, and that that low and illiterate race, vulgarly known by the just denomination of lying scribblers, had ceased to annoy the public in this matter. However, a thing has appeared in the Patriot, in the shape of a review of "Scrivener's" obit—(but not from the pen of the author, the "talented pen" of the Bothwell worthy, who is no more than a vulgar and malicious scribbler. How he could so far, like the bear who fancied his forte was to fly, forget himself as to handle a pen instead of a bran bag, we are really at a loss to conjecture, but that he should consider his last effort to review "Scrivener" as worthy of a column in a respectable paper, is, we confess, a still greater puzzle. The fact is, this jumble of bombastic slander has just about the same pretensions to be called a correspondence, as Paris to be termed the capital of Europe.

The writer in the Patriot—but we must be particular, the Bothwell worthy, alias honest Joe, alias Capt. McVane, of Western expedition notoriety. We must call no place north of us now till McVane's Western survey is over. He is now in search of a N. W. passage of the mill stream)—but, in some instances, merit, because he seems so well versed in the vulgar phraseology of slanders—do not doubt his only associates—such as, "is it the north shore of E. Point he means—if it is, surely "Scrivener" is the only cannibal to be found there"—that gives to those slanders in which he appears most au fait something of an air of drollery. By the higher branches, we are convinced that had we time and space, we could detect the same ignorance upon "Trigonometry" that he has betrayed in his other absurd and slanderous assumptions. "The jury was composed of his (Beaton's) nominees," &c. "He could not have meant more Beaton's than one. Oh! shades of Lindley Murray!"

The foregoing part of the last sentence cannot apply to honest Joe's progeny, however creditably they come, the means of support is not in proportion to the increase. Could absurdity go beyond this, we might be forgiven if we stopped here, and rested our judgment of the whole matter on this single specimen, which our readers will see was not done for any public benefit, but of thwarting the ends of justice in Beaton's behalf. Need we write another syllable. "Out of thy own mouth shalt thou be judged," and if the slanderous author of the correspondence in question did not implicate others, we should leave him; but truth and justice to the injured obliges us to conclude with a remark on the vulgarly and unscrupulousness with which he deals with private character.

Passing over with an indifference and charitable silence that part of his correspondence in which the writer is rather exuberant, and which, we shall only remark, is pointless, insipid, and frequently low and filthy, we cannot too strongly express our reprehension of the introduction into his jargon, which purport to be a genuine review of public and private character, writings on tricky-nometry, geography and knavishness; "piling a large quantity of brush within 100 miles of the light-house."

We will not enter into a regular examination of the "Watchman's" philological qualifications. Ce n'est pas l'affaire des hommes gens, yet we really cannot pass this reviewer's bombastic presumption, in taking upon himself the arduous task of not only criticising, but also slandering others. We have only to add, this scribbler will never make a good reviewer, and from his specimen, the Patriot should follow the example of the Islander, and decline taking him into his employment on any terms. He has too much gall and too little vigor for his purpose; he would be getting him perpetually into scrapes, and could help but, we suspect, in getting him out of them. The Patriot should be embarrassed, no doubt, if the following sentence appeared originally in any of its papers.—"This I do not, because Mr. McVane's talented pen is not capable of defending his own head, is it the pen's head? If he means McVane's head, we know his heels have served him a better purpose on that score lately."

That we may not be suspected, however, of feeling more jealousy of "Watchman's" critical qualifications than we really do, we shall carry this review of the reviewer no farther, but leave him and his writings to partake of that repose which they have so liberally bestowed on their readers.

Yours, etc., SCRIVINER. Souris, May 27, 1867.

The Herald.

Wednesday, June 26, 1867.

Last week we received from Nova Scotia a pamphlet of forty-seven pages, entitled: "Confederation Examined in the Light of Reason and Common Sense; and the British N. A. Act shown to be Unconstitutional," by Martin I. Wilkins, Q. C. The pamphlet is written with great vigor and in such a spirit as we would naturally expect from the champion of a people who had been defrauded of their constitutional rights. After a searching examination into the British North American Act of Confederation, the writer comes to the conclusion that, without a Statute Law of the Province to confirm the Imperial Act, the latter is null and void, as far as Nova Scotia is concerned. This is a doctrine

in which we believe, whether strictly constitutional or not. But Mr. Wilkins reasons the case well, and upon this alleged defect (which the Halifax Morning Chronicle and other leading papers have already taken hold of) thinks a merciful Providence for having thus enabled the Province to escape the "dreadful calamity" of Confederation. To Nova Scotians he says: "At the ensuing election Confederates will offer for OTTAWA. You will have to set up men to oppose them and keep them out, but any sort of men will do for that purpose, as their election will amount to nothing more than that it will afford them an opportunity of visiting Canada and seeing the Falls. Return the ablest men to your own House of Assembly charged with the glorious mission of sending Confederation to its cloven-footed inventor, the great enemy of mankind, who has contrived it as the most effectual destroyer of the peace and prosperity of this Province."

We are inclined to think, from our own personal observation, as well as from a careful perusal of the Nova Scotia papers, that that Province will make a clean sweep of the Confederates who may offer for election at the approaching contest; and certainly if any class of politicians ever merited an ignominious defeat, it is those Confederates gentlemen who bartered the liberties of the Province for their own selfish and ambitious ends. The history of Confederation in Nova Scotia is but that of similar movements the world over in times past, against the liberties of the people. On reading Barrington's Rise and Fall of the Irish Nation, we see history reproducing itself in these Provinces, in the disgusting bribery, treachery and corruption required to create the "Dominion of Canada." In New Brunswick, nearly every leading Confederated, whether lay or clerical, has had his reward for advocating the scheme, for it was only the other day that the Rev. editor of the St. John Journal had an office especially created for him as the price of his support of Confederation. Mr. Wilkins gives us a faithful picture of how the job was done in Nova Scotia, in the following paragraphs:—

"Now, let me ask the people to consider the manner in which Confederation has been attempted to be forced upon them. The scheme, as I have shown, was devised by the Canadians, who, not being able to agree among themselves, found in the spoliation of the Maritime Colonies a platform on which they could unite. Thus we often find men who hate each other, like our political leaders, shaking hands over deeds of iniquity. They sell man's brother each other. They generally delude and would cheerfully injure each other if they did not find it more profitable to lay their heads together and rob other people. Thus to ascend from infinitesimally small, after slaughtering a few hundred thousands of each other's subjects, met at Tilsit, embraced each other as if they had always been the dearest friends, and went deliberately to work to rob the weaker nations and divide the earth between them.

So the good Samaritans of Canada, having agreed on doctoring Nova Scotia, paid a visit to our politicians, to feel their pulses, examine their tongues, and make what Dr. Tupper would call a diagnosis of their moral health. They returned to Canada, well satisfied with the result of their professional visit. The scheme which they had prepared they well knew could not be imposed on Nova Scotia otherwise than by fraud and corruption. They would therefore naturally secure the leaders of the Government in the first place, if they found them of the right stuff for their purpose. Having made sure of these, all they would have to fear would be the Opposition, and then the coast would be clear. To gain the leaders of both parties, all they would require would be to give them their respective prices. The scheme, it will be observed, gives the Canadian speculators a very respectable stock in trade, to make their purchases withal.

The 36 United States, with over thirty millions of people, have 72 Senators. The scheme has the same number for four Provinces, and less than four millions of people. Why are these poor Colonies to maintain as many Senators as the United States? Because the offices were required by the Canadian traders to purchase Nova Scotian and New Brunswick politicians.

If the Senators are paid even not much higher than those of the Republic, they will cost probably \$4,000 each, or upwards of two hundred and eighty thousand dollars a year in all. Five Senators appointed by the Legislature of each Colony would have been as useful as fifty; but then there would not have been as many offices at the disposal of the traders as were necessary to perfect their purchases.

Thus, then, they had to tempt our leaders of both parties, whose trade and occupation in life had been office-hunting, with 72 Senatorships, 4 Lieut.-Governorships, and probably a good many other ships of the same kind.

Now it will be remembered of our leaders of the two parties, that as long as there were only a few offices to contend for in Nova Scotia, they fought each other like famished wolves. Josephus relates that the enemies of Daniel, who had procured the irrevocable decree of the Medes and Persians, as soon as they found that the lions had not injured him, invented a story that Darius, to save his favorite minister, had caused the animals to be crammed to satiety before he was cast into the den, and that the reason they gave him so civil and friendly a reception, on his involuntary visit, was, that they had not room in their stomachs for the accommodation of the prophet.

The Canadians having this story before them, probably took the hint, and by throwing to each of our voracious place hunters a good fat office, appeased their appetites, subdued their rage, and produced millennial harmony, which has filled the public with amazement. At all events it is evident that the thumaturgists of Canada get these men, who, up to that time, had hated each other with malignant and uncompromising bitterness, so completely reconciled, that they returned from Quebec with their arms round each other's necks, and what is quite a remarkable phenomenon, they who were never known to agree about anything before, in all their lives, came back in love with Confederation, and with each other.

Don't let me hear any more of the impossibility of miracles. Let these men say exhibited in the European centres of learning, with an accurate history of their political career, and their past and present relation to each other, and German neology would be scattered to the winds.

That their hands are not clean, is not even attempted to be denied. Some of them have notorious received their offices already, and their own friends are speculating on the splendid prizes in store for them."

This will give the reader an idea of the pure and unselfish patriotism of the leading minds who have, according to the Hon. Mr. Howe, prepared a constitution for these Provinces, which "has nothing like it in heaven or on earth."

However, we agree with the Catholic hierarchy of Canada, that as Confederation is now a fixed fact, it is incumbent upon even the opponents of the measure within the Dominion to give it a fair and candid trial. If found to work injuriously, it will no doubt be succeeded by a more simple and inexpensive system of government; and, if found to work harmoniously and to the advantage of the Dominion, then we feel satisfied that no parties will be better pleased than those who have offered a conscientious opposition to so momentous an experiment. The position of this Island is a most enviable one—namely, that of an on-looker, for although we can take no credit should such accrue from the success of the Confederation, yet we may be pardoned, where the interests at stake are so great, if we hesitate to surrender our autonomy and the control of our own affairs for a doubtful benefit. No plotting or bribery can drive the Island from this happy position. Nothing short of coercion, which we believe will not be attempted, or an improvable combination of circumstances of the most imperative nature, could obtain the consent of the Island at the present time to enter confederation;

and, in fact, should Mr. Menzies succeed in his mission to England, a consent at any time, or under any circumstances, would be a most difficult thing to obtain. If Mr. Pope's peculiarly modest and candid letter to His Grace the Duke of Buckingham succeeds in its disreputable object of defeating the Loan Bill, our own candid opinion is, that the effort to bring the Island into the Dominion would not require the same base means that will forever characterize the history of confederation in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and which Mr. Wilkins so unsparingly exposes.

We perceive by a paragraph in the City Council proceedings that the Recorder has introduced a By-Law, the object of which is to levy an additional assessment on Real Estate, for City purposes, for the current year, at the rate of 10s. on each one hundred pounds of such real estate, and equal to 1s. on each one pound of the rental. This assessment seems absolutely necessary to maintain the City Department in an efficient condition. Had the City Council, in passing the bill which they presented to the City Council last session, and which was very properly rejected, been framed with a due regard to the actual necessities of the town, it would, no doubt, have been passed into law, but so outrageous were some of its provisions, that, although we were prepared and voted to extend the powers of the City Council, we did not regret the defeat of the measure. In consequence of the loss of the bill, it is now found necessary to resort to the above assessment, in order to avoid bankruptcy and the cessation of all improvement upon the streets and squares of the City, and even the finishing of the Hall of the Market House. From the manner in which our civic affairs are managed, and also the judicial matters referred to them, we have come to the conclusion that the Act of Incorporation itself requires a thorough revision, with the view of reducing the staff and expenses connected with the administration of City affairs. To this task we will devote ourselves at a future time.

A public meeting of the citizens of Charlottetown was held in the city Hall on Monday night last, for the purpose of nominating a person to fill the vacant office of Mayor. The meeting was very fairly attended. Mr. Councillor Brown was appointed Chairman. After considerable talking on the part of the Hon. Mr. Coles and Mr. A. McNeill, Theophilus Desbrisay, Esq., and the Hon. Charles Young, L. L. D., were severally proposed and put to the meeting. The Hon. Dr. Young appeared to have a show of hands in his favor, but owing either to the apathy in civic matters manifested by those present, or to their indifference to both candidates, a majority of the meeting voted neither way. As the election comes off on Friday next, and as both candidates will probably be put in nomination, our citizens will speedily have to make up their minds which way to vote. We have received from Mr. R. B. Irving, a full report of the proceedings of the meeting, including the speeches made thereat; but unfortunately the lateness of the hour at which we received the report precludes us from using it to-day.

SUPREME COURT.—The Trinity Term of the Supreme Court for Queen's County commenced yesterday.—Chief Justice Hodgson presiding.—The business of the Court consists of nineteen record cases, four summary suits, and eight appeals. The Criminal Calendar is very light, consisting of only three or four cases. The following are the names of the grand jurors:—F. W. Hales, City; John C. Binn, New Glasgow; Samuel Hyde, West River; Benj. Wright, Royalty; Wm. McGill, City; Alex. Simpson, Lot 21; Alex. Robertson, Lot 30; Henry Hall, Princetown Road; Wm. Heard, City; John Drake, West River; David Lawson, Covehead; John Mutch, Lot 48; Geo. Beer, City; O. A. Hyndman, City; Jas. Leard, New Glasgow Road; Geo. McGuigan, Lot 33; Mark Irwin, Lot 29; John Leach, Stanhope; Thos. Delany, City.

Next Friday, being the Anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation, there will be no Market held in Charlottetown.—It will take place on Saturday, the day following.

BURGLARY.—We learn that the store of I. C. Hall, Esq., was burglariously entered on Saturday night last, and a small sum in coppers stolen therefrom. The thief cut out a panel of the shop door with a knife and thus effected an entrance. As he must have taken a considerable time in doing so, the facts speak well for the vigilance of the Police.

The office of the Steam Boat Company was also broken into, and a small sum of money stolen therefrom.

The store of Messrs Darby & Montgomery, at Summerside, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 21st instants.

The Montreal Daily News says:—We have the highest authority for stating that the following gentlemen will compose the New Confederate Ministry: Hon. John A. McDonald, Premier; Hon. Messrs Campbell, Howland, McDougall, Cartier, McGee, Galt, Langevin, Tilley, Tupper, Mitchell, and Henry.

News by Telegraph.

LONDON, June 17, (midnight.) In the House of Commons to-night, the discussion on that portion of the Reform Bill which provides for the re-distribution of seats, was concluded. A division took place, which resulted in a majority of eight in favour of the Derby-Disraeli Government, whose plan of re-distribution is accordingly adopted.

LONDON, June 18, 1 o'clock, a. m. A Reform mob attacked a Tory meeting to-night at St. James's Hall. They stormed the platform, and erected a flag surmounted by a liberty cap. There was much fighting, and many arrests have been made.

LONDON, June 18, 2 p. m. Information has reached this city that a very formidable anti-Popery riot prevails in Birmingham to-day. Two streets of the city have been taken possession of, and completely sacked by the rioters, who are in great force, and present a formidable appearance.

The Roman Catholic Church had been attacked, and is threatened with demolition. The most intense excitement prevails and further serious troubles are apprehended.

LONDON, June 18, 3 p. m. At this hour the rioters are in full possession of the City of Birmingham. All efforts to preserve peace and order have proved futile.

Large bodies of troops have been sent to the scene of disturbance, with orders to put down the riot and stop further destruction of property. LONDON, June 19, even. The riot in Birmingham, which at first had a formidable appearance, was speedily suppressed by the action of the Government. In the House of Commons, a motion was made by Mr. Hardy, the Home Secretary, announced that the disturbance in Birmingham had ended, that peace and order had been restored throughout the city, and that the troops who were left there were under orders to return to their former stations. The English Government, warned by the landing effected by a squad of

Mr. Reilly said, as the question was again resumed, he, too, would read, if necessary, extracts from another history, but one of an opposite character to that alluded to by the hon. member Mr. Brecken, namely, Collier's History, which he held in his hand, and was prepared to show that the tendency of its sentiments, if not of a disloyal character, were at least objectionable in institutions supported by public money, as were the Normal School and Prince of Wales College.

Further remarks from several hon. members were then made, to the effect that it was highly necessary to exclude from all public schools and institutions of learning all books of objectionable character.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General that the Bill authorizing the establishment of additional Small Debt Courts, and other purposes be read a second time.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition moved, in amendment, that it be read that day three months, and opposed the principles of the Bill. The Judicial office should be free from political bias. At the close of his address on the subject, he pointed out the tendency of appointments purely political. Changing the complexion of Small Debt Courts with every change of Government was highly reprehensible, when the object, evidently was to appoint to office political partisans and supporters of the Government of the day, no matter whether Conservative or Liberal. It was high time to adopt a course more in accordance with that which obtained in other Colonies, and in the Mother Country.

A debate followed, during which hon. members on both sides of the House concurred in the desirability of appointing to the office of Commissioner of Small Debts those in the community whose experience, integrity and impartiality commended them to that high and important position, irrespective of party bias.

At the close of the debate the House divided on the question, when the amendment of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was negatived on the following division, viz:—

For the amendment—Hons Haviland, Henderson, McAulay, Messrs Brecken, McLennan, Prowse, Green, Owen—8.

Against it—Hons Attorney General, Laird, Davies, Col Secretary, Howland, Callbeck, Messrs Arsenaux, G. Sinclair, Rielly, Jenkins, Cameron, McNeill, P. Sinclair, Howatt, Kickham, McCormack, Bell—17.

The Bill was then read a second time and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Howland presented a Bill to alter the Act relating to the Revenue.

The said amendment is to the effect that Canadian Flour, imported via Boston, New York, and other ports in the United States, would be exempt from duty on the production, on the part of the Importer, of the necessary certificate to show that said Flour was the produce of Canada, and was not purchased in the United States or any country not reciprocating with this Colony.

Said Bill was then read a second time and agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General that the Bill to amend the Militia Law of the Island be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. Howatt moved, in amendment, that it be read that day three months.

The question was put on the said amendment and negatived as follows, viz:—

Yeas—Mr. Howatt, Hon. Mr. Laird, Mr. Reilly and Mr. McNeill—4.

Nays—Hons Attorney General, Colonial Secretary, Callbeck, McAulay, Henderson, Haviland, Messrs Bell, Kickham, Jenkins, McCormack, Owen, Prowse, Green—13.

The House accordingly went into Committee, and after some debate relative to the merits of the Bill, progress was reported thereon.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 15.

The Bill to authorize the Government to raise a loan was read a third time.

Hon. Mr. Henderson not having addressed the House when in Committee on the Bill, remarked on its leading features, and reviewed the arguments that had been advanced by hon. members on both sides of the House relative to the principles upon which it was contemplated to secure a loan. He concurred with the opinions expressed by hon. members in opposition to the Bill, and on the impropriety of appropriating any of the funds that might be thus raised, to any other purpose than that of paying for or purchasing proprietary lands in the Colony, on the grounds that it was inexpedient to relieve commercial difficulties by legislative aid.

Mr. Bell was astonished at the course pursued by the hon. member, Mr. Henderson. It was at least unusual if not unparliamentary, to introduce a debate on the merits of a bill at its third reading. When the bill was in Committee of the whole House was the proper time to discuss its provisions, relative to which no new matter had been advanced by the hon. member, Mr. Henderson, whose remarks were merely a repetition of ideas previously enunciated.

On motion that the Bill be read a third time.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition moved, in amendment, that it be read a third time that day three months.

And the question having been put, said amendment was negatived as follows:—

Yeas—Hons Haviland, McAulay, Henderson, Messrs Green, Brecken, Prowse, Owen, McLennan—8.

Nays—Hons Attorney General, Laird, Coles, Callbeck, Howland, Davies, Messrs Rielly, G. Sinclair, Bell, Arsenaux, Howatt, McCormack, McNeill, Kickham, Cameron, P. Sinclair—16.

Several bills were then read a third time and passed.

The Bill to introduce an Hospital in Charlottetown, for sick and disabled Seamen, and others, was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

A considerable debate ensued, relative to the necessity of establishing such an institution, during which discussed Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Brecken, Hon. Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Henderson, Mr. McNeill, and the Hon. Attorney General supported the object of the Bill, setting forth the expediency of providing Hospital accommodation for sick and disabled seamen. For maintaining and supporting such Hospital, funds should be raised by levying a small duty on all vessels and ships entering the Port of Charlottetown. The hardships and privations endured by sick and disabled seamen who were thrown upon the charity of strangers in a strange land, were commented on by the supporters of the Bill. Dr. Jenkins instanced several cases of death which came under his own personal knowledge in the course of his professional practice, as the result of ill-ventilated rooms, filth, and want of proper care, showing the extreme sufferings endured by poor sailors destitute of home and friends. The prevention of the spread of fevers and diseases would also follow the immediate removal of sick sailors to an institution such as the bill contemplated.

Mr. Howatt, Hon. Mr. Howland, Mr. Owen, Hon. Mr. McNeill, Mr. Green, Mr. Bell, Mr. Prowse and Mr. McCormack spoke against entertaining the question of an hospital, such as the bill contemplated, for the present. As ship owners were, under Statute, compelled to provide for their sick and destitute sailors, the exigencies of the question were not of that importance which required the intervention of the Legislature in the manner pointed out by the Bill under consideration. The session being about to close, it was considered advisable to postpone the further consideration of the question until next session.

House in Committee again resumed the consideration of the Bill to amend the Act relating to the Militia and Volunteer forces of the Island. A very lengthy debate on the whole Militia question then ensued.

Mr. Cameron in the Chair.

A blessing to mothers—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for all diseases with which children are afflicted, is a safe and certain remedy. It relieves the child from pain, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, corrects acidity, and, by giving rest and health to the child, comforts the mother. Office, 48 Dey St., N. Y., and 266 High Holborn, London, England.