

Spring Vale, Wellington, Inverness, (not plastered.) Kelvin Grove, The Grove.

No BLACK BOARD.—Canoe Cove, (no lock.) Upper North River, Fermoy, Campbellton, Lot 21. No MAP OF THE WORLD.—Pleasant Valley, (new district.) Johnson's Road, Brook Vale, Bloomfield, (new district.) Great Miminegash, St. Peter's & St. Paul's, (new district.) Ascension, Horseshed, Foxley River, Wellington, Carleton, Lot 6, (new district.) Inverness, Kelvin Grove.

No TRUSTEES' BOOKS.—Spring Vale, Cavendish Road, Ascension, Sea Cow Pond, Tignish, Fortune Cove, Canoe Cove, Webster's Creek, St. Catherine's, Mount Pleasant.

No MAP OF P. E. I.—Lower North River, St. Mary's, Johnson's Road, Brook Vale, Freeland, Bloomfield, (new district.) Great Miminegash, Hill's Road, St. Peter's & St. Paul's, (new.) Horseshed, Norway, Sea Cow Pond, Tignish, Campbellton, Lot 4, Mount Pleasant, Lot 8, Fortune Cove, Cape Traverse, The Grove, Inverness, Carleton, Kildare Capes, Foxley River, Hazel Grove, Wheatley River, Johnson's Road, Brook Vale, Freeland, Bloomfield, Hill's River, Horseshed, Campbellton, Lot 4, Greenhill, Wellington, Inverness, (new.) St. Patrick's, Pleasant Valley, (new.) Junction Road, Irish Town, Greenwick, North Rustico, Cavendish Road, St. Augustine.

To the Board of Education for the Island of Prince Edward.

GENTLEMEN:—I have now to report generally on the progress of Education, and the state of the District and Grammar Schools in the Western Section of the Island, from the 16th April, 1867, the date of my last printed report, to the present time.

In doing so, I will refer you specially to my quarterly report, dated the 26th June, the statements and recommendations in which I fully confirm from the results of my more recent visits.

I have subsequently made some suggestions with the view of producing a more regular attendance of the children at the schools, and thus removing the greatest obstacle to their progressive improvement. One of these suggestions, my report of 26th Sept., is the establishment of County or District examinations of a number of pupils selected from the several schools and attended by any of the Trustees and parents disposed to do so, and thereupon the award of prizes to the most deserving, either by their progress in their studies, or their regular attendance.

I think some such measure, after the example of New Brunswick, would create a spirit of emulation, not only among the scholars, but also with the teachers, and would have a favorable effect on the parents, inducing them to make greater efforts to keep their children regular at school.

Much, under any circumstance, depends on the parents, and they cannot be too strongly exhorted to attend, as far as may be in their power, to the education of their children. There are many impediments to regular attendance in this climate, but I have known instances of girls walking bare-footed to school, two miles over the snow, and of others attending in very inclement weather with very thin clothing. Those who evince so much anxiety for improvement, should be encouraged, but at the same time, every care should be taken that their health may not suffer, and on this account the 11th rule of the new regulation should be strictly enforced.

In the Schedule to my report, I have particularized the condition of the schoolhouses, many of which are cold and unfit for winter use. To remedy this effectually, would require more power than is at present possessed by your Board, as the suspension of its school is the only penalty that can be inflicted on any District that may allow its schoolhouse to become dilapidated, and I know of one instance at least, where this has produced no good effect. While I am on this subject, I may perhaps be allowed to quote the words of an eminent British statesman, who has recently observed that, "if a parent did not educate his child, he was committing not only a sin against that child, but a positive offence against society."

Next to the parents of the children, we should look to the Trustees to promote Education in their respective Districts, and much more depends on them, than on any of the other authorities. The office is one of great importance, and its duties are too often neglected, or inefficiently performed. In many cases, however, all of which I have noted in the Schedule, some of the Trustees have taken a warm interest in their schools, and wherever this is the case, good effects are invariably produced, both on the teacher and the children.

With regard to the teachers, I can safely report that most, if not all of them, are well qualified, as far as regards their own attainments in the several branches of instruction usually taught in the District Schools. If I might presume to make any suggestions, it would be, that previously to granting the certificate, some little time should be devoted to the actual teaching, under superintendance of some school or large class. And further, that English composition should be made a prominent subject for examination. If a third class of teachers, consisting of such as should be willing to submit to a higher examination, to be regulated by your Board, were instituted, with an increased salary, it would, I think, tend to raise the general tone of Education throughout the Island. I must repeat what I have before said as to the deficiency in Black Boards and Maps, and also the frequent want of Trustees Books. It will be for your Board to enforce the orders you have made on these subjects, which do not appear in the printed regulations.

New Schoolhouses have been built at Platte Lot 17, and North Bedeque, Lot 25. These I have specially reported as well adapted for their purpose. The new Schoolhouse at Cape Wolfe was completed when I last visited the District, but some differences had arisen with the contractor, which prevented its occupation. A Schoolhouse is also building in the District of Huntly, late South Kildare.

The Grammar School at Summerside, of which Mr. A. McRae is master, on my first visit, contained a small number of scholars, but some of them were well advanced in their Classical and Mathematical studies. Two of the pupils were then receiving instruction in Greek, six in Latin, one of whom construed an Ode in Horace, seven in French, four in Algebra, and six in Mathematics, and I can speak very favorably of the progress made in all these branches. On my last visit, on the 27th ult., the more advanced scholars had left the school, but the number was increased to twenty-four, of whom two were learning Latin, ten French, two Algebra, two Geometry, four Navigation, and one Book-keeping. On this occasion, also, the pupils acquitted themselves very creditably.

At the Cavendish Grammar School, under Mr. Millor, four were receiving instruction in Latin, seven in French, four in Geometry, one in Algebra, and one in Book-keeping, and it is only justice to teacher and scholars to say, that the attention of the former to his duties, was well responded to by his pupils.

During the summer circuit, I have visited one hundred and sixty schools, and in the winter, up to this time, sixty-eight have been inspected, making two hundred and twenty-eight since March, 1867. I have attempted, in the Schedules, to give an adequate report of the state of each school, but it should be remembered, that only a small proportion of the scholars present during the summer attend during the winter season. It will be seen that the senior classes generally read and spell well, and I have endeavoured to ascertain by questioning them on the subject of their lessons, whether they understood their general meaning, and I have paid particular attention to their progress in Arithmetic, notes of which, as well as the results of the examination in other branches, will be found in the several columns of the statistical Schedules.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Your most obedient servant, W. HENRY BUCKERFIELD, Visitor for the Western Section. Alberton, Feb. 1st, 1868.

To the Board of Education.

GENTLEMEN:—I received, from your Secretary, on the 3rd instant, "Notice, that at the regular meeting of the Board, on the 30th ultimo, a special meeting was ordered to be held on the 10th instant, at 10 A. M., and that the Visitors of Schools be notified, that unless the concluding portions of their reports for the last year be laid before the Board on that day, they will not be received thereafter."

I presume that, in asking reports from your subordinates earlier than customary, it was not your intention to order the reiteration of the facts and suggestions detailed in the usual quarterly communications regularly submitted, as required by law.

As I interpret your injunctions, you wish your officers to furnish at the time specified, the complement of statistics and a supplementary report stating succinctly, observations bearing upon the improvements desirable in our school system, and in the present organization of the schools, that you may have time to revise their suggestions, and select such as you approve of, to be included in your report to the Government and the Legislature.

In deference, therefore, to your supposed desire and expectations, as well as in accordance with my own conviction of duty, I respectfully comply with the requirement of your resolution.

The Schedule of statistics is similar in form to the authorized school registers. The aggregate of the boys and girls, and also of the pupils in the five reading classes, corresponds with the number enrolled. The accompanying synopsis exhibits a reliable summary of statistics. The entries on registers in schools are remarkably accurate, which can be ascertained by inspection and comparison of the columns to which I have now referred.

The recent amendments in the School Act in relation to the payment of salaries, has satisfied a large majority of teachers, especially the fathers in the profession, but the difference in the salaries of old and young teachers is considered, by those classified probationers, as an illiberal and unfair distinction. They maintain that they entered and attended the Normal School to be trained in the art of teaching, and have received license from the B. of E. without any invidious conditions.

The necessary condition for the prosperity of schools is, the interest and sympathy of the people; but the immediate agents in effecting efficiency must be good teachers. To supply these is the object of the Normal School.

The theory of Normal Schools requires that they should be strictly professional, that those who enter them should be thoroughly acquainted with the several branches they propose to teach, and the instruction in them should be confined to the art of teaching. When our Normal School was established, however, nothing like this could be realized. But as all our teachers, except a few, have been trained; the instruction in our schools should now be so exact and thorough as to make the pupils really know, as teachers should, the branches to be taught, so that the art of teaching alone would remain to be learned; consequently, the present work in the Normal School should be superseded, being a perversion of its legitimate functions.

In this connection, I refer to my communication of the 27th November ult., in case you wish to revert to the questions you then proposed. I now transcribe your Secretary's letter to me, and Mr. Webster's autograph answer:

Charlottetown, Nov. 16th, 1867. J. ARBUCKLE, Esq., S. of N. S.

Dear Sir:—I am directed to request you to furnish to the Board of Education, full statistical information on the state of the Normal School, including the following heads:—

- The No. of students or pupil teachers in attendance.
The No. of ordinary scholars or pupils.
The No. of each sex.
The No. in the female department, of both sexes—all in the present term.
The hours of instruction, summer and winter.
The No. of pupils from the country.
The No. of pupils resident in the city.
The No. of teaching days in the year.
The No. of teaching days in each week.
The Books used.
The portion of time devoted by the students to teach, in the Model School.
Whether there is a Model School, or classes properly so called?
Whether the instruction is conducted on Stowe's system? If not, on what system?
Whether the pupil teachers and the ordinary pupils sit in the same department.
Whether the accommodation is sufficient in regard to space and rooms for the largest No. in attendance, and any other information you can furnish on the subject.

[Signed,] JOHN McNEILL, Sec'y B. of E. Nov. 18th, 1867.

Abstract from Register of Normal School term, commencing Sept. 2nd, 1867. No. of students—females, 19, males, 25; total 44. Pupils taught by master—females 3, males 11; total, 14.

Total in Mr. Webster's room—females 36, males 22=58. Total in Miss McKinnon's room—girls 44, boys 13=57. 58x57=1115.

Of these 115, 38, all students, are from the country. The remaining 77 reside in the city. Hours are, in summer, from 9 to 12, in winter, from 9 to 2.

The No. of teaching days is about 215. The No. of teaching days in each week, 5. There is no Model School. The students take turns assisting Miss McKinnon, one being always with her.

The system is Stowe's system, as it now exists in Stowe's original Institution in Glasgow, so far as our circumstances admit.

The students and pupils do sit in the same apartment.

There is space enough for the No. in attendance, and as long as there are only two teachers, two rooms are sufficient.

A good Model School, with two or three departments, is required to make the P. E. I. Normal Schools worthy of the name.

The foregoing are very concise answers to the questions submitted. I hope you will find them satisfactory.

[Signed,] J. H. WEBSTER. To J. Arbuckle, Esq., S. N. S.

In compliance with the order of the Board for my guidance in prescribing the course of study and discipline in the last term in the Normal School, the students have been exercised in practical lessons without interruption, for the last month of the session, to qualify them for an examination testing their ability to teach and their capacity for governing—essential acquirements—to be in future prominent features in the examination of applicants for licence to teach.

Although the days when teachers were few in number and poorly prepared for their work, have passed away; yet, I regret that it is too prevalent usage to engage teachers without sufficient consideration of their aptness to teach, and of their zeal and love for the work, without which the best intellectual attainments are worthless.

A radical change in the organization of the city schools is absolutely necessary, and that change should comprise systematic grading, which I repeatedly proposed in former reports, and again respectfully recommend to your serious consideration.

Schoolhouses on improved principles would be provided, furnished and equipped in accordance with the requirements of the system, with regard to method and discipline.

In our city, a system of three schools—giving two grades to a school, would be a practicable and suitable arrangement. The course of instruction prescribes an average period of "schooling," each pupil advances from one grade to another at the end of each term of the established course, and when the highest class is transferred to the Grammar School, then each class below is promoted one grade, leaving a room vacant for new recruits.

Citizens complain that the school accommodation is not commensurate with the requirements of the community. The establishment of the districts has not afforded the convenience and comfort contemplated.

Children residing in the Fifth Ward, attend school in the First. Several of the pupils in the "Kent," come from other wards. Practically, the restrictive regulations prescribed in reference to districts are disregarded, and the limits defined transgressed.

In all the schools, some of the children do not live in the district in which the school they attend is located, and many of them are of various ages and attainments.

In the five reading classes in the city schools, there are from the 1st class to the 5th, in succession, 118, 102, 106, 91 and 82 pupils, in the aggregate, 512, so that these data from the records indicate that the systematic classification proposed is perfectly feasible, and unquestionably desirable.

My conviction of the defects and deficiencies of our system urge me to recommend the establishment of a few special schools.

An intermediate Seminary is much required for the instruction of pupils not qualified to enter the Grammar School, and who are too old and too large to be placed with the children in the primary schools. This school should combine in its scheme, classes for instruction in the English classics,

(Continued on fourth page.)

Correspondence.

A meeting of the members of the Saint Peter's Bay Agricultural Society was held at the Head of St. Peter's Bay, on Wednesday, the 8th instant.

Mr. Angus McDonald was called to the chair. In amendment to the bye laws of the Society, the following resolutions were passed:—Resolved, That the Treasurer and Secretary be paid the sum of three pounds out of the general fund, as compensation for his labor for the first year, and that the committee shall furnish the said Treasurer and Secretary with a journal and ledger for the use of the society.

Resolved, That any of the committee not present at this meeting or any other meeting of the society, be expelled and replaced by a majority of the meeting present, unless showing cause of absence.

Resolved, That an exhibition, fair and cattle show, will take place at St. Peter's Bay in the first week in October, A. D. 1868.

Moved by Mr. Richard Dwan, seconded by Donald R. McKinnon, that the Right Rev. Dr. McIntyre, Bishop of Charlottetown, be Patron of the St. Peter's Bay Agricultural Society.

And the following gentlemen were placed in the room of the absent members of the committee:—Mr. William Hooper in the room of John Hughes, not present, Mr. John D. McKinnon in the room of John R. McKinnon, not present, Mr. Henry D. Anderson, Cardigan Road, in the room of Peter McAlary, not present. It was also agreed that William H. McEwen, Esq., be a member of the committee.

Mr. Editor, I feel happy to announce to you that the above meeting described, was well attended by gentlemen from different parts of this locality, who intend to take a lively interest in fostering the society. Although our society is only newly fledged, we promise by the encouragement received from its members and others, and especially the support granted by the Legislature, that our society will prosper and be a benefit to the farming population of King's County. Several members of the society gave most excellent observations on the subject of their farming operations, &c., &c. Spoke highly on the use and the benefit resulting from agricultural societies.

The Secretary of the society read a document from His Excellency in Council, showing the appointment of the following gentlemen, who are empowered by His Excellency in Council to expend the £100, granted by the Legislature for the St. Peter's Bay Agricultural Society.

- Hon. Andrew McDonald, M. L. C.
Anthony McCormack, Esq., M. P. P.
William Whiteman, Esq.
William Clements, Esq.
Alexander J. McDonald, Esq.
George Moore, Esq.
John Stewart, Esq., Red Point.
Mr. Thomas Anner, Lot 29.
Mr. Ronald McCormack, Lot 55.

The committee is desirous to know from the above named gentlemen when they intend to hold their meeting, in order to receive their report in due time in regard to the exhibition, and the committee also requests full particulars to be given to the Secretary in due time.

ANTHONY McCORMACK, Sec'y. Society's Room, Head St. Peter's Bay, July 8th, 1868.

Other papers please copy.

On board the Heather Belle. Thursday, 23rd July, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ISLANDER.

Sir,—On arrival at Summerside from Shediac, yesterday, on the steamer Heather Belle, we found, to our surprise, that the steamer was ordered back to Shediac, instead of finishing her voyage to Charlottetown, and disembarking us at the point of our destination; this was anything but satisfactory to us, but Mr. Bertram,

the Company's Agent, was in a difficulty, having passengers to forward to Shediac and to Charlottetown; and acting upon orders, sent the boat accordingly back to Shediac, and proposed to pay our hotel expenses till the return of the boat, to which arrangements we consented. We were, accordingly, conveyed to the "Clifton House," where we received every attention from Mrs. Mawley, whose kindness and urbanity of manner, cannot fail to recommend her house to the favorable notice of travellers and excursionists.

We, the undersigned, passengers of the Heather Belle, desire publicly to express our admiration of the kind attention paid us by Cpt. R. K. McKenzie, the Pilot and Crew of the boat, as well as of the straightforward and honorable conduct of the P. E. I. S. N. Co. in thus amply providing for our comfort, under the peculiar circumstances in which they found themselves placed, and feel assured that by their pursuing this praiseworthy line of conduct, they will ensure to themselves public patronage and confidence.

Wishing the company every success, we herewith cheerfully subscribe our names—

- (Signed)
Rev. Alex. McWilliam, M. A.; Henry J. Richards, Hamilton, Can.; H. M. Churchill, T. G. Wadman, John Williams, Charles P. R. D. Stearns, George Kear, George Dodd, Thomas P. R. M. A. T. Pollard, Miss E. Saunders, Mrs. H. Richards, Mrs. John McInnis, Mrs. G. Kerr, Miss Margaret McCarter, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. C. W. Shaw, Mrs. J. H. Churchill.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held in the rooms of the Marine Insurance Company on Monday evening, the 21st inst. In the absence of the Hon. D. Brennan, President, the Hon. J. C. Pope was called to the chair.

Mr. Pope stated that the object in calling a special meeting of the Board was in consequence of certain resolutions introduced into the United States Congress, relating to a free trade between that country and Prince Edward Island. The question was one of very great importance, and this Association, representing to some extent the commercial interests of the Colony, he thought, ought to take some action on the subject.

I. C. Hall, Esq., laid upon the table a printed copy of the resolutions submitted to Congress by Mr. B. F. Butler, relating to Free Trade with P. E. Island, which the chairman read. They are as follows:—

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to admit into the Several Ports of the United States, free of duty, the actual productions of Prince Edward Island, including fish, accompanied by satisfactory vouchers of the place of production, under such regulations as he may deem necessary, whenever the Colonial Government of P. E. Island shall provide by law.

First: Free admission of all productions of the United States to that Island.

Second: To admit to its bays, ports and harbors, for shelter, to obtain supplies, and to refit, free of duty of import, all American Fishing vessels.

Third: To give license to fish in the waters adjacent to said Island upon such terms that the license fee shall not exceed five dollars for any one vessel, or such less sum as may be demanded by the Canadian Dominion as a per centage of, or excise on, licenses granted by the Colonial Government of said Island.

Hon. G. Coles, D. Laird, Esq., Hon. B. Davies, Hon. W. W. Lord, I. C. Hall, W. Heard, E. Reilly, and others, severally addressed the Board, expressing themselves in favor of Free Trade with the United States, and after a lengthened discussion the following resolution was agreed to:—

WHEREAS it appears from certain printed resolutions submitted by Mr. B. F. Butler, on the 6th of July, inst., that the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have under their consideration the subject of Free Trade between that country and Prince Edward Island; and this board being of opinion that such Trade would be most conducive to the financial interests of both countries, will use their best efforts to promote so desirable an object.

Resolved therefore, That a Committee of five gentlemen be appointed from this Board, to correspond with Boards of Trade and other persons interested in Reciprocal Free Trade between the United States and British America, for the purpose of obtaining such information as may lead to so desirable a result.

The following gentlemen were then named as a Committee to carry out the foregoing resolution:—Wm. Heard, Esq., Hon. B. Davies, I. C. Hall, L. C. Owen and D. Laird, Esqrs.

The meeting then adjourned until Monday evening next, when a general meeting of the Association will take place in the City Hall, for the election of office bearers, &c.

A. H. YATES, Sec'y. July 22, 1868.

MR. A. H. ST. GERMAIN, Proprietor of the Canadian Advertising Agency, Toronto, Ont., is our Sole Agent for procuring American Advertisements, and is authorized also to receive Canadian Advertisements for this paper.

The Herald. Wednesday, July 29, 1868.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Dr. Tupper, delegate of the Dominion, and Messrs. Howe, Anand, Troop and Smith, delegates of Nova Scotia, arrived at Halifax together, in the Steamer City of Cork, on the 15th inst. On stepping ashore, the Doctor was greeted with a storm of hisses from those assembled on the wharf. He cleared out of Nova Scotia to Ottawa the following day. Mr. Howe and his brother delegates, on presenting themselves on the deck of the steamer, received a very different welcome from their fellow-countrymen. "Clear after cheer," says the Recorder, "rent the air when Mr. Howe stepped on the gangway to come on shore, and every one present, with the exception of some Dominion toadies, seemed eager to grasp the hand of the great patriot,—once more among his countrymen, whom he has served so honestly and well." Previous to their leaving England, the delegates put on record their protest against the manner in which the Imperial Government and Parliament dealt with the petition for Repeal presented to them. The "Protest" possesses a bitterness of spirit which might have been expected from men who have been defeated in obtaining through legal means a restoration of constitutional rights treacherously taken away—and which they find themselves unable to restore by physical force. The tenor of the document may be gathered from the following paragraphs, with which it concludes:—

"But what of the future? The question is natural, but we have no answer to give. With the publication of this paper our responsibilities end. We have proposed our remedy, it has been rejected. His Grace the Colonial Secretary and Lord Monck have assumed the task of making things pleasant and harmonious. They will have had time to try their experiments before the Legislature of Nova Scotia meets in August.

"In the interim, we presume the future of our country will be anxiously considered by its people. May the Almighty guide them! Having discharged our duty to the empire, we go home to share the perils of our native land, in whose service we consider it an honour to labor, whose fortunes in this the darkest hour of her history it would be cowardly to desert."

It is difficult to say what the people and the Local Government of Nova Scotia will attempt in the present crisis, or what course of action they will adopt. It is evident that they are rightfully exasperated, and will be in no mood to obey the behests of the Dominion Government. There are rumours of a secession ordinance being passed in August when the Legislature re-assembles. This might be all very well if the difficulty was simply between the Dominion and Local Govern-

ments. Its solution would be short and simple. But as there are Imperial interests and rights involved in the question, its satisfactory adjustment is not so easy. The Chronicle, which is the organ of the Local Government, points to revolution, as the inevitable goal to which the Province is hastening. "In their final protest," says this paper, "the delegates have temperately related that we are just nearing the narrow boundary which divides insular allegiance from revolution. We go slowly but surely to the goal. Before we reach it we trust that England will learn the truth and do us justice." The Citizen, another Anti-paper, looks to the local legislature as the medium by which independence is to be gained. It says:—

"In such a crisis as that which has arisen, it is rather for the legislature to speak than the press; but the action of the legislature must be largely influenced by the feelings to which we have referred. Nova Scotia is now exposed to the dangers which beset a Colony that can obtain no redress, no sympathy, and no regard for the self-respect of its people within the Empire in which she has been reared, and is driven to look abroad for succour.

"Upon the wise discretion of our legislators, rests in a large measure our future destiny. The duty of the press is rather subordinate, because all the materials for action are ready at hand. It is not necessary that the people should be wrought up to a state of indignation or that appeals should be made to secure the confidence of their countrymen for those who will guide the public councils. However bold those councils may be, they will be somewhat behind the popular feeling, and will leave no chance for suspicion and mistrust to creep into our ranks."

Time will soon tell what all these mutterings mean; but we must express our conviction that the hope of obtaining "succour" from "abroad" is a delusion and a snare which may lead many persons into positions of danger, if not to introduce them to the acquaintance of Calcraft, without the slightest chance of obtaining Repeal.

LIBERTY AND LICENSE.

We are not of those who would deny to the press a large amount of liberty. We commenced journalism with very extensive ideas on the subject, but we were not long in discovering to our cost that our views of the privileges and freedom of the press were altogether too magnificent for the community in which we lived. Chief among those who instructed us in the hard lesson, was the Editor of the Patriot, and if we now return him the compliment in part, he will admit at least that we have been an apt pupil. As a general rule, then, we admit that public men are amenable to a certain amount of censorship from the "Fourth Estate." This liberty is conceded in all free countries, where the law recognises and punishes under the name of libel any gross attacks, not founded on fact, upon the personal character and reputation of individuals.

A press, however, may often descend into license, without strictly coming within the offence of libel, and the power of the Court. For example, whilst a journal might be perfectly justifiable in holding any public official responsible for his political views and opinions, it can claim no such privilege with respect to private individuals. It can never be justified in bringing before the bar of public opinion, a private individual, because of certain opinions which he holds with respect to private Educational institutions, because of his convictions in matters of either Church or State, or because of his attendance or non-attendance at any public or private gathering. Were such a license allowed the press, no person in the community would be safe from attack. Any individual against whom an Editor had an instinctive animosity, or upon whom, unjustly perhaps, he looked in the light of a rival for popular favor, might be singled out and held up to opprobrium because he attended certain conventions and not others, because he paid a visit to certain friends and not to others—or because he gave expression to certain opinions on one subject and remained silent on others.

Now, to make a personal application of these remarks.—It appears that the Hon. Col. Gray was invited to attend the late examination at St. Dunstan's College, which invitation he was pleased to accept. In response to the request of the Rev. Rector of the College, the Hon. Col. Gray offered a few congratulatory remarks to the students and their professors. His Lordship the Chief Justice did the same. There is nothing in what the Colonel said which could offend anybody. He was at perfect liberty to act as he did. An irreparable family affliction had caused him to withdraw from public life long ago, and in attending the College and speaking as he did, he neither insulted nor compromised any religious or political body in the Island. As a private gentleman, he spoke his private opinions, and, therefore, we are at a loss to know why the Patriot blindly pounces upon him and imputes to him all sorts of motives for his actions and his words. The Chief Justice was quite as amenable to censure as Colonel Gray; but whilst the former is passed over in silence, the latter is made the subject of a three-column editorial. Why this invidious distinction? Is there any private grudge to satiate, in the person of the Colonel, which does not exist with regard to the Chief Justice; or is it presumed that the former may seek to re-enter public life through the Belfast District, to the prejudice of Mr. Laird's prospects in that quarter? We do not know that Colonel Gray ever intends to mix in local politics again, nor do we think that Mr. Laird has any positive knowledge on the point. What excuse, therefore, can he give for his invidious and savage assault upon a private gentleman, who, so far from having political ends to serve, in attending lectures, examinations, rifle competitions and other non-political gatherings, may be simply seeking relief from the sorrow which naturally pierces the soul for the loss of a companion who was the joy of her own household, and the comforter of the afflicted throughout the community. We have been as much opposed to Colonel Gray upon political questions as any writer in the Colony. We are still opposed to his views upon confederation; but we must certainly say that we would be guilty of coarse brutality, now that he has retired from public life, if we allowed our opinions to pursue him into private life, and attribute some sinister motive to his every action. Colonel Gray demands no defence at our hands. We offer none. We simply protest against the license of the Patriot, which would, even under the most afflicting circumstances, and contrary to the ordinary rules of propriety, persecute those to whom it is opposed. No exception is taken to the arguments of Colonel Gray. It is not attempted to be dealt that St. Dunstan's college affords first-rate facilities for imparting a cheap and good education to the youth of the colony; that its Professors are able and diligent, as seen by results; that the students are well looked after; that the community is more or less indebted to the Bishop for keeping in existence such an institution; and that it is deserving of support. The least that Colonel Gray or any other gentleman, could say on the occasion of the examination, were kind and encouraging words to the college and its Professors, seeing that they received no state aid. Where political ends, however, are to be gained, and the narrow instincts of religious prejudice are to be gratified, the ordinary principles of fair play and honesty are ignored by the Patriot, which, in effect, says—"You, Colonel Gray, are a Presbyterian, and have no right to attend a college over which Catholics preside. As you have thought fit to do so, I will endeavor to make you odious with your co-religionists for all time to come." This is what we call the spirit of bigotry and persecution exercising itself in a mean way, and as such, it cannot fail to receive the reprobation of every right-thinking man in the Island.