MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

[As it was found in an ancient manuscript, which was sent by Publius Lentulus, President of Judea, to the Senate of Rome.]

There lives at this time in Judea a man of singular character, whose name is Jesus Christ. The barbarians esteem him a prophet, but his followers adore him as the immediate offspring of the immortal God. He is endowed with such unparalleled virtue as to call back the dead from their graves. And to heal every kind of disease with a word or a touch. His person is tall and elegantly shaped; his aspect amiable and reverend; his hair flows in beautiful shades, which no united colours can match, falling into graceful curls below his ears, agreebly couching on his shoulders, and parting on the crown of his head, like the head-dress of the sect of the Nazarites. His forehead is smooth, and his cheeks without a spot, save that of a lovely red. His nose and mouth are formed with exquisite symmetry; his beard is thick, and suitable to the hair of his head, reaching a little below his chin, and parted in the middle like a fork; his eyes are bright, clear, and serene. He rebukes with majesty, counsels with mildness, and invites with the most tender and persuasive language. His whole address, whether in word or deed, being elegant, brave, and strictly characteristic of so exalted a being. No man has seen him laugh, but the whole world has frequently seen him weep; and so persuasive are his tears, that the multitude cannot withhold theirs from joining in sympathy with him. He is very modest, temperate and wise. In short whatever this phenomena may be in the end, he seems at present a man of excellent beauty and divine perfections, every way surpassing the children of men.

THE "SUITE" OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. — The facts contained in the annexed statement made by the Canadian Premier to a deputation from Ottawa who urged the immediate removal of the Government to that city, shows that Government in Canada is a somewhat expensive affair. The hangers on of that Government would constitute a town as large and as populous as Fredericton.

"At the same time it should not be overlooked that the contemplated removal to Ottawa was a movement involving great responsibility on the part of the people of Ottawa as well as that of Ministers. When it was considered that about 3000 persons are directly or indirectly connected with the Government, that is: those employed in the Civil Service, the Queen's and Parliamentary printing offices and binderies, requiring at least 400 dwellings, it would be seen that the task was one of great magnitude, and required all the precaution of the Government and mutual co-operation of the people of Ottawa, to meet the necessities of the case. The Hon. gentleman stated that from a return made by the several departments it was found that in connection with the Governor General's Office, there were 47 persons requiring 8 houses; Provincial Secretary's Office 89, requiring 11; Executive Council 64, requiring 10; Provincial Registrar 63, requiring 8; Minister of Finance 236, requiring 37; Receiver General 78, requiring 12; Attorney General, L. C. 24, requiring 3; Attorney General, U. C. 34, requiring 4; Public Works 462, requiring 24; Bureau of Agriculture, 47, requiring 10; Crown Lands Department 356, requiring 50; Post Office Department 157, requiring 24; Adjutant General's Department 68, requiring 10; Legislative Council 207, requiring 35; Legislative Assembly 370, requiring 74; making a total of 2,022 persons requiring 320 dwellings. Add to this 1000 persons, such as Queen's printers, Parliamentary printers and binders, and the number is over 3000, exclusive of a great many families who follow in the wake of the government."

ST. ANDREW'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL. — The following extract is taken from the St. Andrew's *Standard*, of the 30th ult. The institution referred to is the Grammar School at St. Andrew's which has been for some time under the charge of the Rev. Ranold E. Smith, B. A., who is known to be a very able and successful teacher. Young men from this school, in repeated instances, have taken the highest honours at the University, and several under Mr. Smith's training have passed most creditably for commissions in the army and navy:—

"The semi-annual examination of this school was held in the presence of the President and Directors, on Tuesday, the 22d inst.

"The subjects submitted for examination embraced the Classics, Mathematics, Grecian and English History, Geography, and the usual branches of an English education. The answering of the pupils gave perfect satisfaction. The translation and parsing of the Latin, the prompt and accurate replies to numerous and general questions in English History, Geology, English Grammar and Spelling, the specimens of good writing which were exhibited, clearly shewed that these subjects had been well and faithfully studied. The Rev. W. Q. Ketchum, President, and Rev. John Ross, each, briefly addressed the boys, and commended them for the examination which they had passed. The educational advantages afforded by this school combined with the healthful climate of the place, are held out as strong inducements to parents to send their sons from abroad. Arrangements have been made whereby youths may be comfortably boarded in a private house, at a moderate rate; and, at the same time, a careful supervision of their general conduct will be strictly kept. The school will be re-opened on Monday, January 11." — *Church Witness.*

[The Reverend gentleman above referred to is, we understand, a son of the Hon. J. Spencer Smith, formerly Treasurer of this Island.— ED. EX'R.]

REMINISCENCES OF DREADFUL CATASTROPHES — In commenting on the recent disaster at Santiago, Chili, the Philadelphia *Enquirer* says:—"We have nothing in this country which approaches this Santiago calamity. The burning of the Richmond Theatre, in 1811, by which about a hundred and twenty people were consumed in the flames, is the most horrible calamity of that kind which has ever happened in our own country; but South America has felt the hand of the destroyer in other forms more heavily. In 1842, ten thousand people were destroyed by an earthquake at Caraccas, the capital of Venezuela; while death had suddenly called off thousands of victims in the same form in Quito and other cities, in his march over South America. During the great fire in London, in 1812, two thousand people perished in the burning of the London Bridge. In Constantinople, in 1791, thirty thousand houses and fifty mosques were destroyed by fire, and in the space of thirteen years, about that time forty-nine thousand houses were burned in the same city. In the great fire in London, in 1666, which raged for days and nights, one hundred and thirteen thousand houses and eighty-six churches, among them St. Paul's Cathedral, were burned, and four hundred and thirty-six acres of the most populous part of the city were laid waste by the devouring flames.

In India, in 1737, three hundred thousand persons were destroyed by a hurricane which caused the water to rise forty feet higher than usual, and twenty thousand vessels were cast away. The great earthquake in Sicily, in 1693, which levelled Catania and forty-nine other towns and cities, also destroyed one hundred thousand people. Sixty thousand people were destroyed in the space of six minutes, by the earthquake which engulfed the city of Lisbon in 1755; the shock was felt nearly all over Europe, in the northern part of Africa, and even in the West Indies, and a vast wave from the sea swept over the coast of Spain, in some places sixty feet high. Near Morocco the earth opened and suddenly swallowed ten thousand people, with their herds.

This chapter of accidents might be extended further, by reference to volcanic eruptions and plagues; but among all the terrible tragedies which blacken the pages of history, none leave a sharper sting, or create a more acute pain in the public heart, than the burning to death of two thousand people, in one sacrifice, in Santiago.

THEATRE AT SALT LAKE CITY. — A recent Salt Lake City letter speaks of the new theatre erected by the Mormons as one of the finest in the Union, and adds: "Last night I counted in Brigham Young's family box ninety-three women and children, and the box was not near full. He occupied an elegant private box with his two favorite wives.

SUFFERING AT SEA.—The steamship *Edinburgh*, Captain Roskell, at New York on the 6th inst. from Liverpool and Queenstown, had on board Capt. Kearney and *nine* of the crew of barque *Eliza Ann* of Plymouth, England, taken from that vessel on the 25th Jan., in lat. 50 12, lon. 26. The barque was from St. John's. Nfld., bound to Plymouth, with a cargo of timber and almost from the time she left St. John's had experienced westerly gales, during which several heavy seas boarded her, carrying away everything moveable from the decks and damaging the steering gear, rendering the vessel unmanageable. The boats also went overboard.

For thirteen days Capt. Kearney and his crew were on the wreck, during which seven of them died from exhaustion and exposure, and one poor fellow expired after being taken on board the steamer. Five of the rescued men are badly frostbitten and otherwise injured. After the *Edinburgh* arrived at New York the rescued seamen were taken to the Seamen's Retreat Hospital, Staten Island.

AN EXTENSIVE FACTORY.—Colt's Pistol Factory, consumed last week at Hartford, Conn., was five hundred feet long, and three and a half stories high. With the office and connections the line of buildings was nearly a thousand feet long. Eight hundred thousand dollars worth of machinery alone is destroyed, and four hundred thousand dollars worth of finished work. Ready *made pistols, all finished, to the value of more* than $300,000, were burned in the office building. An immense number were got out, but more remained. A thousand lathes and milling machines are among the machinery lost. A hundred original and peculiar machines used nowhere else were destroyed. The company's stock is in $100 shares, and it has been in demand, but not readily procurable. Quoted at $300, it really commanded a still higher price. The company have now about $1,000,000 at command, and their capital *is in shape to enable them to rebuild whenever* they choose.—The number of workmen employed in the factory was about 800. The aggregate insurance was $650,000 in special risks.

In the Vice Admiralty Court, at Halifax, the Judge has decided to restore the Chesapeake and cargo to the owners, subject to such conditions respecting payment of expenses, and security for prospective claims as the Advocate General may exact. The latter demands security against latent *claims, which those acting on behalf of the owners* demur giving. The Judge suggested that the Attorney for the claimants confer with the Advocate General, with a view of arranging terms of delivery. The position of the Judge has been quite consistent throughout.

A terribly fatal fever is prevailing at Carbondale, Pa. It is called the black or spotted fever, and with the exception of a very few cases, has completely baffled the skill of the physicians. From six to eight deaths a day occur, the victims dying within a few hours after being attacked.

MALE AND FEMALE. — From a statistical work just published, under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Massachussetts, we learn that there is an excess of females over males in that State of 37,000. In the State of Indiana there is an excess of males over females of 48,000.

A Paris carriage-builder has invented a vehicle for invalids. It opens in the centre, and the seat is made to descend to the ground by means of a screw. The invalid placed inside, the seat is raised and fastened with great facility.

A HOME FOR BACHELORS.—A home for the bachelors is organized in London. That unhappy class may at last hope to find comfort in this world. Heretofore they have drifted about like a ship without a rudder. It is said that retired old maids are to be the conductors of this philanthropic institution.

Fourteen hundred shipwrecks are stated to have taken place in the Mediterranean during the first week in December.

Two deacons were disputing about the proposed site for a new graveyard, when one remarked, "I'll never be buried in that ground as long as I live." "What an obstinate man!" said the other; "if my life is spared I will."

A PREDICTION.—"A sea captain of forty years' experience," says a Boston paper, "asserts that the Gulf Stream is several hundred miles nearer our coast than usual, and predicts a warm winter in New England, but not at the South, in consequence."

Manuscripts are occasionally to be met with printed on human skin, either Mexican or Peruvian. One of the former is in the library of Vienna, beautifully executed in coloured figures; a second is in the library of Dresden, containing a fragmentary history of the Incas of Peru.

It is not known where he who invented the plough was born or where he died; yet he has effected more for the happiness of the world than the whole race of heroes and conquerors, who have drenched it with tears and manured it with blood.

Victor Hugo is a practical philanthropist, after all. During two years past he has given a substantial dinner, once a fortnight, to some twenty destitute children living in the neighbourhood of his residence.

The coffin of the King of Denmark weighed 3000 pounds. It took thirty men an hour and a quarter to get it down the grand staircase. There were 20,000 or 30,000 men in the funeral procession.

It is asserted that in Mayence, France, where the annual consumption of wine is three hundred and sixty gallons per adult, "gout, delirium tremens, and liver complaints, are quite unknown."

The dealers in wood in Cincinnati have raised the price of that article to $16 per cord.

In a recent encounter in the Shenandoah Valley, the rebel artillerists fired railroad iron and old horse shoes, fastened together with telegraph wire.

The manure from the streets of New York sells for $12,000 per annum, and according to the *Tribune*, it is worth $45,000.

A Parisian doctor has discovered that brandy or rum is the best antidote for chloroform, and that it will at once counteract the effects of an overdose.

The wine drank in London and called the Elbe sherry, is made out of potatoes. There are no grapes on that river.

The women of Holland and Belgium, who make their linnen so beautifully white, use borax instead of soda, as a washing preparation, in the proportion of a large handful of borax-powder to about ten gallons of water.

The expenditure of the State of Massachusetts for the past year was nearly seven millions of dollars. The amount collected exceeded the expenditure by more than half a million.

UNITED STATES.

One of our exchanges says:—A little girl four years old, named Louisa Schieder, was at school, in New York last Friday, when, for failing in her lesson, was ordered to stay after school. When she heard the mandate, unusual seriousness overspread her features, and in an agitated manner she begged of her teacher to let her go home. The teacher, it is said, told her kindly that she might go if she spelled "hedge" correctly. The little thing withdrew to accomplish her task. Shortly after she had regained her seat she gasped for breath, her head fell back, and after three or four gasps she died. The deceased was possessed of a susceptible and affectionate nature. A post mortem examination showed that death was the result of "Syncope." Dr Ramsey, who made the examination, said that the syncope might be produced by fear, excessive grief, or the heat of the room. A child of "four" years of age kept in after school because she failed to spell the word "hedge" correctly! A little sensitive thing—the delight, probably, of some fond father's heart—killed, as it would seem, by a thoughtless disregard of the laws of nature. Let the above case be a warning to all who have the care of children.

The Police of Boston have at last discovered the murderer of Mr. Frank E. Converse, Assistant Cashier of the Malden (Mass.) Bank, who, our readers will remember, was shot while alone in the Bank on the 15th of December last. For various reasons suspicion attached to Edward W. Green, Postmaster at Malden. His every footstep was watched, and every action marked, by the detectives, and finally he was arrested, when he made a full confession of the crime, and that he had also taken $5000 in bank notes—$1069 of which was recovered by the police. Green is 27 years of age, and has an estimable lady for a wife, who has an infant but three months old. The prisoner stated that he committed the murder for the purpose of obtaining money to pay his debts.

LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

(From the Mobile Advertiser and Register.)

An officer just from the army of Virginia, and who has served gallantly in it from the beginning of the war, gives us cheering accounts of the good condition and dauntless spirit of these troops. He represents that they are well clad and abundantly provided with rations. They are in winter quarters, and like old soldiers who know how to take care of themselves, they have built themselves huts, have plenty of fuel, and are as comfortable as men can be in a climate so rigorous as that of Northern Virginia. The troops are as full of pluck as ever, have no idea of anything but fighting out the war as long as Federals are on the soil and threaten the liberties of the South, and it never enters their head that they can be whipped by the Federals. It is a veteran, tried and glorious army that Gen. Lee commands. The morals and confidence it possesses it has won by its own surpassing gallantry. Its laurels are all its own. These men have a religious faith in their glorious chief, and that chief is not annoyed by the snarls and discontents of scheming political generals.

From a private letter received in this city from Gen. Johnson, says the Atlanta Confederacy, we make the following extracts:

"I find the troops in general comfortably clothed. A few hundred, however, are without blankets, and as many without shoes. I fear that the Quartermaster's Department will not be able to furnish the blankets soon, but we are receiving and expecting regular supplies of shoes. Two benevolent ladies of Columbus, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Law, brought us one hundred and fifty blankets, a few days ago, collected by them at that place. Might not the same thing be done in and about Atlanta?"

The Charleston Courier learns that scouts, who have recently returned from the region of Knoxville, report that Burnside had recently been reinforced by a division of troops who came through Cumberland Gap. The position of the enemy in front of Longstreet, however, is still considered untenable. Heavy skirmishing is constantly going on at the outposts. In one of these, recently, a colonel and fifty men were captured.

The Marietta Rebel has the following:

We have cheering news from the Cumberland River, in the vicinity of Clarksville, Tenn. from a gentleman who has just come through the Federal lines. Capt. Bruce Phillips, formerly of the 14th Tennessee Regi*ment and who commanded that Regiment in* the first day's fight at Gettysburg, and who received authority last fall to recruit a regiment of cavalry inside the Federal lines, is now in a section of country between the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, doing serious damage to the foe.

JOHN MORGAN'S CALL.

We find the following in the Richmond papers:

HEADQUARTER'S MORGAN'S COMMAND, Decatur, Ga., Jan., 1864.

Soldiers—I am once more among you after a long and painful imprisonment.

I am anxious to be again in the field. I, therefore call on all soldiers of my command to assemble at once at the rendezvous which has been established at this place. Your country needs your services; the field of operation is wide, and the future glorious, if we only deserve it. Remember how many of your brave comrades are still pining in a felon's cell. They call loudly on you for help. They expect it of you. Will you disappoint them? Come at once, and come cheerfully, for I want no man in my command who has to be sent to his duty by the provost marshal. The work before us will be arduous, and will require brave hearts and willing hands. Let no man falter or delay, for no time is to be lost. Every one must bring his horse and gun who can. Those who cannot will have them furnished.

Another steamer laden with Government freight has slipped into port. The blockaders saw her and tried to cut her off, but she had too much heels for them. She is called the Denbigh, is made of iron and a "good one to go." She comes to a well known house in this city, to which she belongs.

The Richmond Examiner learns that the Committee of the House of Representatives has matured and prepared for report to the House a scheme of financial relief, which rejects what is known as the "Bank Convention" scheme, and proposes a certain plan of general *ad valorem* taxation. In this scheme the idea of funding *is not entirely discarded,* but is proposed as a certain auxiliary to the contemplated impressment of the finances by heavy taxation. It is generally estimated that the tax bill proposed by the committee will yield six hundred million of revenue; some other estimates say seven hundred and fifty millions.

Adjutant General has issued orders for the enrollment as rapidly as possible of persons made liable to military duty by recent acts of Congress; they are required to report as volunteers or conscripts without delay, all who delay beyond the 1st of February being considered as having renounced the privilege of volunteering and held for assignment according to law. Previous to enrollment, as conscripts, all such persons will be allowed to volunteer in companies that were in the service on the 10th of April, 1862, provided the company chosen does not reach the maximum, but they must not be received except on the certificate of the enrolling officer that they have so volunteered. Persons who report to enrolling officers may be allowed a furlough of ten days before reporting to the camp of instruction. All exemptions heretofore granted are subject to revision under instructions from the Bureau of Conscription.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR THE PUBLIC.

(No. 8.)

"Justum ac tenacem propositi virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyranni
Mente quatit solida."—HORAT.

MR. EDITOR:

Other villainously long and teidous controversial writings besides the 'Denish' compilations of the Col. Secretary, have also passed in grizly procession through the racy pages of the *Protestant, Monitor,* and *Islander* newspapers. Their titles were, "The Bible in the Common Schools," &c. Some of these are reputed to have distilled from the respective pen-points of the Revds. Messrs. M., F., S., &c., &c., as the morning dews are supposed by some to descend from the verdant mountain tops.

But without stopping at present to inquire particularly into the personal identity of their authors who seem to be ashamed of their own names, I shall merely point out one or two leading characteristics which appertain to them all in common, and which of necessity must render them quite *irrelevant* to the subject in dispute. Were I, in strict truth, to sum up their aggregate value in one brief sentence, I could not perhaps do it better than by simply saying that they are just so many 'free-will offerings' of the unsavory incense of evasion, pure, flimsy, provoking evasion at the grim shrine of the imperious goddess of Toryism in this Island.

The Bible question, as it has peculiarly developed itself in this country, they have never so much as once touched upon. If the writers themselves are not fully aware of this fact, they need not presume that other people are correspondingly ignorant. Let the author of "The Bible in the Common Schools," for example, just take up some of the now *defunct Protestants*, and read over carefully his own production, and what will he find? If he will only take the trouble to extract from it all the quotations from nearly all other men both living and dead on nearly all other topics except those which expressly relate to the true state of educational matters in this Province, how much does he imagine he shall have left over and above to place to his own credit? If any one wants to see in what 'glorious confusion' this mystical writer has alike, without mitigation or mercy, hurled down upon our poor defenceless heads, Hodge, Dick, Wayland, Webster, Chalmers, Chancellor, Fisher, Ames, &c., &c., &c., without all the while either proving any thing or touching one solitary point in dispute. Possibly some of the old Protestants in which he wrote may yet be found neither consumed by natural flame, nor ignited of their own accord by the intrinsical fervor of the special communications of which we now speak! Like many other great men in all past ages, this particular writer, we presume, has been self-taught. He has plainly never enjoyed too familiar an acquaintance with the inside of a common, school either with or without the Bible, in his own youthful days. This one thing at least, we do protest, that neither from the one nor the other could he ever have learned this like a man on the top of a hay-stack to pitch down upon us, forkful after forkful, of '*remarks*' by nearly all other men on nearly all other subjects but those on which we were led to suppose by his title he really wants to treat.

If even those endless and merciless quotations of his, had any real point or pertinence about them it would not be altogether so bad. But when we feel that in strict equity they have about as much to do with the well-known peculiarities of his subject as they have with the nature of oaten-meal gruel, we must consider ourselves rather badly sold. The idea is simply provoking. Does the writer in question doubt my sincerity in making these strictures? Well, for our mutual benefit let me give a fair illustration of their unquestionable applicability to his whole performance. Were I for instance, now to undertake to write a treatise on the natural climate of this Island, and instead of virtually doing so, were I to turn round and fill my pages, after his fashion, with quotations from the writings of others on the character of the weather in Australia, England, China, Bermuda, or on the general atmospheric conditions of the earth, what would he think of me? Would he not *instantly* pronounce that altho' I was all the time talking about climates in general, still I had completely evaded my true subject? But certainly this would not be one whit more inconsistent than to take for my text "The Bible in the Common Schools," and instead of adhering intelligibly to my subject, merely quote and discant as he has done on the general principles of religious education throughout the world.

He tells us we cheerfully grant many things which are in themselves all quite true, and which no person ever for one instant thought of disputing. He tells us that Hodge says this, Dick that, and some one else the other thing. Well, perhaps, they do say quite all, and some of them even more than he affirms. But even supposing they do, will he just permit us to ask him this one plain question — what in the name of common sense, the general opinions and sayings of such men as these can strictly have to do with the particular local difficulties about the petty school squabbles of this little Island in which we live? What connection can such general quotations as his possibly have with such little local peculiarities, even were we not to view them in the honest light of all those more exclusive aspects which they most undoubtedly wear? Did the *present peculiar political condition of this* Province, even to your knowledge, Sir, pass for one moment under the luminous mental microscope of either a Hodge, a Chalmers, or a Dick? We opine not. And even if it had, what would likely have been the result? Is there not, on the very lowest supposition, an exceedingly strong hypothetical probability, that you yourself would have been furnished long since by those very authorities with some other sayings vastly different from, and incomparably more to the purpose than any which you have yet presented to the thinking public of this Colony? Hunt up some of the not very remote issues of such papers as 'The Glasgow Examiner,' and there you will find some of the sayings of such men as Dr. Eddie, Chalmers, &c., on something like the true points at issue among ourselves, but yet I am sorry to say for your sake, terribly at variance with those which you have sought to represent such men as having invariably promulgated. No, No, Mr. Universal Quotation Maker, your game will never do! The inhabitants of this Island, small and backward in learning as it may be, will never submit to such miserable subterfugery as this. You must either come forward manfully and manfashionedly, and discuss the merits of the religio-political concerns of this colony on those merits themselves, or else you must leave it alone.

Writers of your stamp, we must infer, love to proceed on the knavish assumption that while all other Scotchmen may be 'canny,' those who inhabit the secluded regions of Dundas, Belfast, &c., in this Island, are quite the reverse, and that, consequently, you may easily impose your counterfeit wares upon them with the utmost impunity. This, of course, you are disposed to regard as an exceedingly eligible and advantageous assumption. Nor would you even yourself, perhaps, feel at all backward to admit that any man who can fearlessly act upon such a charmingly patriotic and dignified sentiment, must assuredly be influenced in no common degree by its positive inspiration. You will not doubt, for example, that on this very assumption, that man at least must build pretty strongly, who, in a neighbouring Province could give free vent to the sublime joke—'so long as we can keep the Protestants and Catholics afraid of each other, so long will our party carry the day in Prince Edward Island.' Yet, this is nothing more, we have often been told, than one of our own excessively pious dignitaries has actually done. For my own part, however, I am not inclined to credit 'dame rumor' in this instance any more than in the majority of others. I can scarcely believe that any man, however knavishly inclined, would so far forget himself as to let the whole "cat out of the bag," quite so unsophisticatedly as this. It would not display much cunning, would it? Or perhaps it might correspond with your vocabulary better to say—'it would not be sufficiently Popish.' But if it be true that he has thus behind their backs boasted that he made "a game" of his fellow countrymen, who shall blame him for it? Past events but too clearly prove that he is perfectly entitled so to do. Why not 'laugh in your sleeve' at people who voluntarily suffer themselves to become your fair dupes on religious, as well as on any other grounds? The principle of dupery may not in itself, it is indeed, true, be any more moral than many of those which a certain gentleman affirms to be contained in "Den's Theology." But what of that? If both you and he consider it really eligible as a practical expedient of public life, and one which is also sufficiently compatible with your own private reputation, why, the logic is, by all means act upon it. But yet, at the same time, I hope I may be pardoned the honest presumption on my own part, that the intelligent natives of this Island will not long suffer themselves by any class of deceivers to be designedly hoodwinked. They know at all events this much, that no general author either living or dead penned one solitary sentence from any distinct impression in his own mind of the existing peculiarities of either the religious or political state of the little Island of St. John, at the immediate crisis of time.

They know, at least, that this is true of all those authors in particular from whose foreign writings such gentlemen as you have recently been bundling out to them, pitchfork fashion, such unmitigatedly merciless quotations. They know, too, that no merely theoretical questions of a general nature in any other country under the face of the sun can ever compass the local politics of this; and consequently, of whatever else they may be ignorant, this one fact they know, and know full well, that any amount of such ill devised and worsely executed attempts at unconditional evasion, wholesale sophistry, as those which we have first delineated, look pitifully contemptible in men of such large pretensions as you. Your terrific quotations from Webster, Wayland, &c., were, no doubt, designed to impress the poor plebians of this Island with an eternal awe of your own prodigious learning! Nor have you thus indulged merely in the worst kind of pedantry, but we greatly fear that this childish desire to be thought "learned," has wholly blinded you to a proper consciousness of your own superficiality. Well, as our forefathers used to say, you have no doubt some "great parts"! If our poor illiterate self has been accused by some "common" mortal blessed with an inordinate amount of "sense" (?), of eating the dictionary, we must naturally conclude, from the style of "the Bible in the Common Schools," that you, Sir, have eaten all the books, "wholus bolus," to which the universal printing press has ever given birth! Were you the editor of a certain newspaper in this same Province, of whom we wot, we would naturally say with Goldsmith—

"But still the wonder was, the wonder grew,
How one small head could hold the half he knew."

Or were we thus after your fashion to commit ourself entirely to the art of quoting, we might, perhaps, in the present case, still more appropriately call to your recollection the stanzas of Pope commencing thus—

"The bookful blockhead ignorantly read."

But we shall forbear. We were never partial to "cabbage," nor, to tell the truth, do we esteem Dick, Wayland, Webster, Chalmers, &c., in any wise capable, great as they may have been, of reflecting much light on a little petty school squabble in this not in itself over-considerable Island. The subject scarcely demands such august authorities. Neither, on the other hand, is it any less true that even were the circumstances otherwise, great quoters, for the most part, have recourse to their pilfering propensities from necessity, and not from choice. They have to fill up for the benefit of their readers the greater proportion of their available space with "extracts" culled from the mental workshops of other, which, with the clumsy tools contained in their own "cerebral forges" they are totally incapable of hammering out by any possible method for themselves. They are almost invariably known to be wholly innocent of the natural power of close logical reasoning. They are not usually overstocked with originality of thought. Better, however, that any man who undertakes to demonstrate the absolute indispensability of "the Bible in Common Schools," under all circumstances, should want "a seal skin coat" itself in the coldest winter day than that he should not possess this special mental qualification. And while I by no means arrogate it to myself, still I have, at the same time, this dubious consolation, that, without it, I am not left "alone in my glory" To the author of "the Bible in the common schools," then, we humbly say, that if these remarks be inapplicable to him it is not his own fault.

The mysterious character of his performance throughout may possibly have led us astray. The fundamental positions on which he seems to base the whole of his quotationary ramblings are simply, from beginning to end, groundless. "They ask us to give up our Bible."—"This loud demand to surrender our Bible"—"These attempts to restrict God's Word," &c, are the chief corner stones of his whole fabric. He may, indeed, have purposely written a romance,—he may have intended possibly producing a work of imagination. If not, we must honestly beg of him to explain himself. Who ever asked him to give up his Bible? The only intimation, we can frankly assure him, we have ever had of such a demand ever having been made by "man or mortal" in Prince Edward Island is in his own writings And then, as to "restrictions," we can just as bluntly protest that the only restriction we have ever heard of our Bible being subjected to in our own midst, is the "*Without note or comment*" lately imposed on it by our own present Government in this very province. Any desire, indeed, to lay it under any restrictions of any sort whatever before that we never, in our consummate ignorance, heard of coming from any other quarter. We, in common with all our fellow countrymen, have long been perfectly aware of the slight misunderstanding which arose between our Catholic and Protestant population from fear in the minds of the former of a sectarian use being made of the Bible in schools. The result of this temporary fear which, culminated in the "Bishop's Letter," we furthermore all now fully understand. We know, too, that when the Bishop himself expressed his satisfaction that no such design was intended, that fear had naturally enough obtained its proper quietus. By *whom* or for what *reasons* the whole subject has, in any shape, been since publicly resuscitated we leave it to every honest conscience to determine. "Coming events" may "cast their shadows before," but past events must leave their testimony behind. Had any thing even bordering on an overt demand ever been once made to divorce the Bible from the public schools of this country, such writings as those under review would not appear so deplorably nonsensical. Or had even any particular exception been taken to its indefinite or unlimited use in wholly or chiefly Protestant schools in which no radical disparity of religious sentiment could render it impracticable, the character of such writings would not have been so palpably indefensible. But when we come to look into the strict facts of the case, that no such demands were ever once made or mooted, except in the writings of those very authors themselves, what, I almost sorrowfully enquire, are we honestly to think? Is it not a crying pity that some men, and, above all, men holding such responsible positions in society, would not be alike more careful of their own honor and greatly more consistent with the well-known conditions of the most redoubtable and undisguisable truths? O honesty! stern, magnanimous, unimpeachable honesty, when shall we ever find thee impersonated, really developed in all thy lovely transparency by any of the Sons of Earth? To the authors of all such productions as those immediately under review, we, therefore, must necessarily conclude our own remarks by asking simply this one plain, honest, and, indeed, almost inevitable question: Why did you not keep to the strict facts of the case? Your conduct puts us very much in mind of some of our over-the-way blustering Yankee military neighbours, who, in the outset of their present civil rupture, were sometimes represented as attempting to storm a fort or city by firing off, with matchless flourish, "a tarnation tempest" of sky-rockets and play-boys' squibs, and then retiring again "in good order" without having done any real damage to anything or any body after all. But how soon were they convinced of their radical mistake! How salutary the lessons which they have since learned! They may, perhaps, at the time have been crazy and conceited enough to have dreamed that such sham-work would pass off with both their opponents and the world at large as genuine manifestations of real prowess on their part. But if so, how deplorable their miscalculations! How sudden, deep and mighty the revolution since effected within their own bosoms, bringing them promptly to perceive that if they were ever going in reality to suppress the wide-spread rebellion of their country, they would have to adopt much more vigorous and decisive means than gaudy theatricals for that purpose! And so, gentlemen, we humbly presume it has come to pass with you. If you ever really intend clearing up, to the general satisfaction of nearly all the self-thinking and intelligent people of this country, this great "mystery of mysteries," this "fine art" of religio-political necromancy, this new style of "coming Paddy over" credulous Protestants, now so long practised by the clique-managers of our public affairs, you must set and set, without delay, either much more directly to work than you have ever yet done. You have already given us quite proof enough of your skill at theatricals. When we next hear from any of you may we not hope that, instead of wholesale evasion, you will make, at least, one sincere effort to give us something really tangible and to the point?

W. KEIR.

Malpeque, Feby. 15th, 1864.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR;—

In the last issue of the *Weekly* I observed an article upon the "Presidential Election." As it is calculated to give a false impression in relation to President Lincoln, Gen. McClellan and Governor Seymour, allow me through the columns of your paper to correct it.

That "a strong effort is made to renominate Mr. Lincoln," no one will deny; but that "the conservatives of all parties will support him," no person with the slightest knowledge of his administration or political standing will assert. He is supported as President by the Democratic as well as Republican party, inasmuch as he was constitutionally elected—the Democratic party being a law-abiding, constitutional party; but they are, almost to a member, bitterly opposed to his renomination. Mr. Lincoln's unpopularity is daily increasing; his warmest political friends are forsaking him—even a member of his *Cabinet*. He has not shown himself so well qualified for the Presidency as for his former position—"Rail splitter," afterward "second-rate country court lawyer."

A celebrated Boston writer, commenting upon his last act — a proclamation calling for half a million of men to serve three years—says: "The most rabid Republican is unwilling to accept it; it is received with anxiety and consternation not to be mistaken." The *Weekly* further states that Mr. Lincoln, if he is renominated, will surely be elected, as the "Opposition"—meaning Democrats—are greatly in the minority. Quite likely he has not seen the official returns of the last elections for Governor in New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri — each of these States gave Democratic majorities; and in the States of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota the Opposition had very small majorities.

In conclusion he styles Gen. McClellan and Governor Seymour of New York "*Peace men.*" The former served the administration two years in the field honestly and faithfully, and when relieved of his command — on account of his popularity—he offered to take a "musket" and fight in the ranks, so desirous was he of "serving his country" and so enthusiastic for the cause of the Union. (See his letter to the President of July 7th.) Of Gov. Seymour, I will refer the *Weekly* to his last message. I fancy he has not seen it. Note his calm, clear, logical discussion of National affairs; his earnest protest against the usurpations of the Federal administration; his admonitions of the destructive consequences to the material interests of the country, the former form of government and to public liberty of Mr. Lincoln's abolition policy, and the continuance of the war under it. Both McClellan and Seymour differ materially as to the manner in which the war should be prosecuted — they would conduct it so as to bring back the seceded States to the Union; to restore peace to every fireside; to put an end to the policy inaugurated by the McNeils, Popes, Hookers and Burnsides of murder, robbery, destruction of property, and the making war upon women and children, so faithfully carried out by Butler, Schink and Millroy. But just so long as Mr. Lincoln is in power, and controlled as he is by the *radicals*, just so long will the war last; they would not have it stop. The only inducements to cease the work of destruction are the claims of humanity; opposed to these are all the blandishments of power and the possession of wealth — every quality of man's worse nature is appealed to, to continue the strife. Why should Butler wish the war to close, when by its continuance he can clear millions of dollars? Why should the Huetts, Camerons, Morgans, the cotton-thieves, detectives, informers, contractors, and the thousand classes of officials, wish a war to cease whose existence opens to them a treasury of wealth as rich as the diamond valley discovered by Sinbad the sailor! Why should New England desire a cessation of the strife when it costs her nothing; when she can steal negroes from other sections to fill her quotas; when she can do her work from the pulpit and halls of legislation. It is for such reasons as these that the war will not stop under the Lincoln administration, esteemed so highly by the *Weekly*. It has long since been pushed beyond the constitution, and now is carried on in a manner that most effectually renders it impossible for the South to return, however much she may desire to do so. The powers that rule are drunk with blood and authority; people have become mad, and to-day society and morals run riot as unlimited as did the citizens of Rome during the Saturnalia.

S.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 22nd, 1864.

THE FAILURE OF THE DELEGATION AT LAST ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.

WE learn from the *Islander* of Friday that the last Government Folly—the Delegation Scheme—has been finally "played out," and that the supporters of the Administration will meet on Wednesday next to devise a new humbug. Nobody is disappointed at the explosion—it was sure to come—everybody was on the look-out for it—and nobody is hurt at the report it made.

Yes, the confession comes at last from the Colonial Secretary—it comes slowly, reluctantly, and in bad temper—that the Delegation is a failure—the Delegation from which so much was promised to the tenantry, which has cost this country many hundreds of pounds, and about which Mr. Secretary Pope fooled away in England six months of the time for which he was paid at the rate of a pound a day, besides his expenses —(which could not be less than about two pounds a day more)—the whole thing is a miserable, ignominious failure; and the blame of it is thrown on the shoulders of Sir Samuel Cunard!

Mr. Sec'y. Pope does not unburthen himself of his grief in such an honest way as to excite our *compassion. He seems to be choked with anger* at the reflection that Sir Samuel Cunard exercises more influence over the Colonial Office than all the Government of this Island put together. But he does not tell us what Sir Sam. said to him or what he said to Sir Sam. He appears to have discovered only these two facts from his six months sojourn in England:

1. That that the Award of the Land Commission is really and truly set aside.

2. And that any arrangement with the proprietors, with the view of converting the leasehold tenure into freehold, must be based upon a plan proposed by Sir Samuel Cunard.

This latter subject is the principal thing to be submitted to the political Caucus on Wednesday next.

The present Government perpetrated many follies, but it nearly passes belief to suppose that they would be so stupid as to think of turning the Award to account, even through the influence of a Delegation, after the repeated declaration of the Colonial Minister that the thing was utterly impracticable, and must be set aside. The Award was a wretched bungle from the beginning, and apart from the recommendation for an Imperial loan, it would never have done any good for the tenantry.

We have been amused lately, in looking over old files of the *Royal Gazette*, to notice the fuss that was made by the Government and their supporters in the country with respect to this Award. Two years ago, petty officials were scampering in every direction where the Administration had friends, getting up addresses to the Lieut. Governor, congratulating his Excellency and his advisers on their wonderful achievement in getting the Land Commission appointed. Arbuckle rested neither day nor night while this official cajolery was going on. The people of New London, New Glasgow, and some obscure corner called "Strathalbyn," greatly distinguished themselves by the exuberance of their zeal in praise of the Commission; but the Belfasters, and the Murray Harbour people—who are now in revolt, and clamouring to get their lands at 6d. instead of 18d. an acre, with a total remission of arrears—got so full of glory about the Commission that they declared their readiness to take up arms instanter against any and every one who dared say "Boo!" to the Government. Mr. Dundas, in his reply to one of these exuberant addresses, told his glorified friends that the thing was sure to be done—mildly rebuked their zeal—hoped they would trust to *him*; and *he* would see that everything would be made comfortable and pleasant under the Commission. About two years ago, the Duke of Newcastle declared that the Award of the Commission was impracticable. Messrs. Pope and Palmer went to England last August, apparently to find out whether the Duke was right or wrong in his decision; and Mr. Pope has just discovered that, at all events, the decision cannot be reversed. "We understand," says he, "it has been ascertained that the Award cannot be enforced against the Proprietors." It seems incredible that a public officer should be allowed to spend six months in England at the expense of a poor and heavily taxed people, and then to bring nothing home but this piece of piper's news!

As to the new proposal which Sir Samuel Cunard is said to have made to the Government of the Island through the Delegates, we know nothing of it; but we may be sure it is not very favorable to the tenantry, or is a thing that is not likely to create any popularity for the Government, otherwise it would be described with the utmost particularity, and the Government journals would overflow with braggadocia about it, as a proof of the patriotism and zeal of the Government, and of their sympathy for the tenantry. It most probably asks the Government to pledge the revenues of the country for the payment of the lands owned by Sir Samuel, to be sold to the Government, in the first instance, at the high figure of fifteen or sixteen shillings an acre. This, of course, would not be popular, and hence the bluster and threats which the Colonial Secretary uses against Sir Samuel Cunard. Mr. Pope does not scruple to say that if Sir Samuel's "proposal" be not accepted by the supporters of the Government on Wednesday next, some very violent measures must be adopted against that land-owner—he must be made to part with his lands just at whatever price the Government may choose to give, and pay him when they like. He and other proprietors, we are now told, had great indulgence shown them by the Crown *in the matter of the Quit Rents; and in consideration thereof,* indulgence to the tenantry must be exacted from the proprietors. Our party were reviled in every possible way for alluding to the Quit Rents as debts honestly due to the Colony; *now* our opponents say—"Ha! ha! we shall use the Quit Rent question as a sort of rod in pickle, to lay over the back of Sir Samuel Cunard." Our opponents yelled out the fiercest anathemas against us when our party proposed a Tenant Compensation Bill and a Rent Roll Bill, as measures that were calculated to induce the proprietors to think seriously of selling their lands to the Government under the very equitable provisions of the Purchase Bill. These persuasive measures were denounced as Coercion in its most offensive shape. We were charged with attempting "undisguised spoliation" on the "*sacred rights of property.*" Long and loud discourses were uttered in the Legislature, and dreary platitudes filled the Government journals, against the enormity of interfering with the claims of the proprietors contrary to their most gracious wishes. But now an officer of the Government gravely propounds the doctrine that coercion may and should be practised against the proprietors—that they may be forced to sell their lands on such terms as the Government shall propose—that, in short, the wishes and interests of the land-owners must yield to what the *Islander* vaguely calls "reasons of public advantage." Who, now, are the reckless men who would sacrifice the "sacred rights of property?" Who, now, are the Gothic invaders of proprietary claims, with "spoliation" and "coercion" in every breath?

But the proprietors need not apprehend actual hostility from the Government. They and we understand this thing quite well. The Government want something to divert public attention from their ignominious failure in the Land Commission and Delegation schemes. They evidently suppose that it will be popular to pick a quarrel with the landowners in England, and particularly with Sir Samuel Cunard. Some portion of the people may be foolish enough to think that the Government have really done everything they could for the tenantry when they have quarrelled with a mighty potentate like Sir Samuel Cunard. They will say amongst themselves—"There is the Colonial Secretary of the Island prepared to prove that Sir Samuel 'acted throughout the Commission the part of an *evil genius*—that he has misled alike several of his fellow Proprietors and the Colonial Office'—that, in fact, he has practised lying at the Colonial Office on such a systematic scale, to the injury of the tenant, as to be 'without parallel in the history of the Colony.' Therefore, if the Colonial Secretary can prove all this against Sir Samuel Cunard, why then he must be an enemy to that great proprietor, and be the tenant's friend." With the most ignorant class of people, such as *he* represents, this kind of reasoning may help to break the fall of the Colonial Secretary, and avert a portion of the odium which attends the failure of his English mission. But the intelligent will want something more than silly and impotent threatenings against the proprietors, or abuse of Sir Samuel Cunard, to convince them that Mr. Pope and his colleagues in the Government have, after all, any real regard for the tenantry.

One thing, however, cannot fail to result from this double game of chicanery in which the Government are engaged. There will be an increased organized resistance to proprietary demands, and an increased diminution of proprietary influence. The Murray Harbour infection, becoming more virulent, will extend to other localities. The oppressed tenantry every where will say—"The Government and proprietors are at war against each other — the latter are unrelenting in their demands—the former are threatening to use legal or Parliamentary coercion against them—the Government inculcates this lesson, that coercion is not only allowable but necessary, and coercion means resistance to demands that may be considered unjust. The demands made upon us are unjust — we shall resist them as far as we can. The Government sets the example of resistance." This is fair reasoning. It is not based upon any great regard for either belligerant in the squabble between Government and Proprietors. It springs from self-interest and a sense of wrong endured by the tenantry; and if the latter gain anything by the quarrel, they will be reminded of the truth of that old saying which refers to the falling out of a certain class of people when honest men come by their own.

We rejoice, then, at the failure of the Government in the matter of the Delegation—we rejoice at the complications in which they have involved themselves with the English proprietors by their duplicity. They have been making a heavy bid