

larger than either Sarah Ann, or Elizabeth, (the name of my second wife,) and, I say it without invidiousness or impropriety, is decidedly handsome. Her person is of good size, very round, full chest, bright flaxen hair, and a soft blue eye. She enters into the duties of her own situation with wonderful alacrity, and is very happy, as are also Sarah Ann and Elizabeth. You may be surprised at this, but you will be still more so when I assure you that all my present wives are anxious that I should get another—one who is fitted by education, and physically adapted to take charge of the business of the dairy. With such an arrangement of my household, every department of a well-organised establishment, on a patriarchal scale, would have a head to it, and be governed in order. I have no inclination to comply on my own account, as I am well satisfied with those I now have; but, if I should do so, it will be entirely out of regard for them. My daughter Louisa is engaged to be married to a man from Pennsylvania, who has already a wife and three children."

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir— Some observations and enquiries respecting the sum realized by the Bazaar having appeared in your paper of the 5th instant, I beg to trouble you with a statement of the present views of the committee, and of the motives which have actuated them. It has appeared to them that the indiscriminate and unquestioning system of alms-giving practised of late in Charlottetown is not conducive to the real interests of the poor, or to the improvement of morality and good order in the town—the most specious mendicant meeting with the best success, and the virtuous poor shrinking from a means of relief so little congenial to their feelings. Under a method of this kind, imposition and deception must exist to a great extent—no one knowing what his neighbour gives, or to whom he gives it, or to what purpose the money or provisions bestowed may be turned. It has been said that there is at least one house where, after gathering a store of broken food, oatmeal, &c., a beggar can exchange the proceeds of his day's begging for rum, and that such a traffic is really carried on. To meet the evils of such a system, the committee thinks mutual information and co-operation among the friends of the poor indispensable, and the ladies have organized or commenced a plan of district visiting throughout the town, by means of which a tolerably correct idea may be formed of the wants, the characters, and the resources of the poor in every quarter; and it is their earnest wish that the ladies of the Roman Catholic body will either join with them or co-operate in this useful work—distributing relief where it is absolutely needed, and exposing imposition where such can be clearly made out. And as a very important step to permanent improvement in the management of the poor, they think a House of Industry desirable for as many of the paupers as can properly be cared for in such an institution. In principle the ladies are guided simply by humanity, without reference to religious differences in creed; but in the working out of their principle they desire to call in such assistance, and in such a manner as may, as far as ordinary foresight can guard against inconveniences arising from its differences of creed, which however greatly to be lamented, we all know to exist. They would prefer seeing the paupers so lodged as that the religious instruction of the one need not interfere with that of the other; and they think that by a suitable arrangement of the plan of the building, such an end may be easily attained. The sum of £80 now in hand, supposing the pressing demands immediately presenting themselves will admit of its being preserved intact, could avail but as a small beginning, under any circumstances, towards the full accomplishment of such a scheme, while, if accomplished, the scheme itself might be followed by consequences of the very best kind. As to whether, therefore, the whole sum reserved, or the half of it, shall be appropriated to the Protestant portion of the fund with which a House of Industry may be built, is, in the opinion of the committee, of less importance than the question, whether the Roman Catholic ladies will exert themselves, in co-operation, for the forwarding of the general plan. It is felt that the management of a portion of the poor may be considered a pleasing duty by some of the Roman Catholic ladies; and that none can undertake that management more properly or with a better prospect of advantage than persons of the same religious communion with those requiring relief. It is felt, also, that a House of Industry for the poor of all denominations would be too onerous an undertaking, unless all denominations united, and a grant from the Legislature were obtained. The Bazaar seems to have created an occasion on which such a measure may be usefully discussed, and it is hoped, initiated. And it needs only to offer now the reason for the reserve heretofore made from the Bazaar Fund towards commencing a building, or portion of a building, for the admission of Protestant poor. In your paper of the 5th, the subject is treated as though Roman Catholics and Protestants had equally interested themselves in the Bazaar, and prospered it to the same extent; whereas the committee thinks that, from the want of that pre-arrangement which, it is to be hoped, will be attended to on the next like occasion, the support given to the Bazaar by Roman Catholics, as a body, was small in comparison with that given by Protestants. If there is any error in this statement, the ladies of the committee are ready to accord full justice to their Roman Catholic neighbours. They deputed a part of their number to wait on those Roman Catholic ladies who had testified the most lively interest in the Bazaar, and ask their active co-operation in the management of the poor of Charlottetown, at the same time tendering them £20 as the share which perhaps might be considered an equivalent for their support of the late Bazaar; and such of the ladies as were willing to interest themselves in the matter, and some did so very laudably, expressed themselves quite satisfied with the sum allotted, and appeared well disposed to enter into the general view of a combined and vigorous promotion of the cause on equal grounds for the future. So fully persuaded are the ladies of the Bazaar Committee of the necessity of more freedom of co-operation, and of a better system of mutual information regarding relief of the poor in this town, and likewise of a hearty concurrence on all hands in the design of a House of Industry, as well as of an united effort to bind out, under sanction of the law, children relieved by charity, and to compel absentees, when able, to support their families, that they are quite satisfied to leave to the judgment of the Roman Catholic ladies themselves, above alluded to, what portion of the £120, up to one half of the sum, in justice belonged to them.

I am, sir, &c., A TOWNSMAN.

Charlottetown, Feb. 9, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir— A question of some importance to us all, just now, has been mooted by a correspondent in the *Islander* of the 9th. My reason for not replying through the same medium which contained the enquiries are two-fold: first this might come to be regarded as a mere party question, and because Mr. Maclean might himself wish to satisfy the public curiosity on this matter, for information of this description cannot be too widely circulated amongst our fellow colonists.

Mr. Currie asks—1. What are the peculiar excellencies of Mr. Stow's system? 2. In what does it differ from that established in this Island? 3. In what countries has it been

taken as the basis of Education, and for how many years has the experiment been tried?

To give satisfactory replies to these enquiries would require more time and space than can be bestowed on one newspaper article, and would involve the discussion of points which the general reader would think entirely foreign to the subject. However if your readers bear with me, the subject shall be treated with as much brevity as is consistent with a clear understanding of the point at issue.

No subject has in modern times presented greater difficulties to enlightened statesmen than mixed education. I say to enlightened statesmen, for to others this question presents no difficulties at all. They would have the youth of a country early indoctrinated in whatever happened to be their own religious opinions, or, if dissatisfied with that, go without education altogether. Starting with the axiom that their peculiar religious tenets are right, and with the implied corollary uppermost in their minds that everything besides is wrong, they cannot see any more harm in training up youth in what they call scripture truth than in the truths of geology or botany. In this the reader who is familiar with modern history will not fail to discern the spirit which lies at the root of all religious persecution. And such is David Stow's system. But in order to a more thorough understanding of this matter it will be necessary to go a little farther into the subject.

The reason why the state interferes, as to what manner people educate their children any more than how they clothe them, or what profession or trade they adopt for them, is that every tolerably civilized government may think without presumption that it does or ought to possess a degree of cultivation above the average of the community which it rules, and that it should therefore be capable of offering better education to the people than the greater number of them will spontaneously select. Influenced by these considerations, the governments of Russia, Austria, France, Belgium, and, to some extent, of Great Britain also, have established systems of public instruction accessible to all, either gratis or at a mere nominal charge. After repeated experiments on systems, and only one, was found to work well. With some trifling differences in the details, the system finally adopted in these countries all agree on the following essential points:—1st. That no particular religious creed is allowed to be taught in any school, and no attempt at proselytism permitted, and—2d. That each denomination can only receive religious instruction from the clergymen of the different sects to which they belong. Whenever Sunday school is thought not to offer sufficient facilities, one day in each week is set apart for the purpose. The result is, we are informed, that while their religious instruction is not neglected, the intermixture of the different sects from their earliest years on a perfect footing of equality, removes all asperities and religious animosities.

Mr. Stow's system is the very reverse of this. But to avoid all possibility of misrepresentation, he shall as far as possible be allowed to expound it in his own words. He has written a book on the subject of more than 500 pages, divided and subdivided into sections and chapters about as unphilosophically as it is possible for them to be. "The religious department," he tells us, "termed bible training, occupies the first hour of the day, including the prayer, analysis of the hymn or psalm before being sung—the practice of the bible precepts and principles, termed moral training, being diffused throughout the whole day." He condemns the practice of reading extracts from scripture, "the contents of which cannot disturb the conscience of any one, be he who he may." Equally futile, in his view, is the use of the bible itself as a text book, unless it be well explained by "Christian men." Without this, he tells us (page 45), "the Roman Catholics themselves might feel perfectly safe in putting the Protestant bible into the hands of all their children." * * * "Were the training system, in its completeness, established in Ireland, in all its parishes, that interesting population, after 15 or 20 years training of their young, would present a mightily improved aspect. Such, indeed, would be justice to, and a cure for, Ireland. But what say the priests?" (page 68). These brief extracts convey a good idea of the most distinctive feature in Mr. Stow's system, and will, it is hoped, justify the assertion that it is the very opposite to that adopted by the ablest statesmen and most enlightened nations in Europe.

The remaining topics connected with this enquiry shall, with your permission, be discussed in a future communication. X. Y.

St. Andrew's, February 14, 1855.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

A phenomenon of an unusual character occurred in this place, on Thursday morning, the 8th inst., between 6 and 7 o'clock. As the inhabitants were getting up, a low rumbling noise resembling distant thunder, was heard, apparently under ground, which seemed to proceed from South to North. Simultaneous with this noise, a quick vibratory motion of the earth was felt, which shook the dwellings and all other objects around. This quaking of the earth took place at three successive periods, only a few seconds elapsing between each shock, and the whole requiring about a minute and a half. These phenomena were experienced by several individuals of almost every family in this neighbourhood, the accounts of whom agree with, and corroborate each other. The writer also experienced them, and they instantly suggested the idea of an earthquake to him; and so much was he alarmed, that at the last shock, he was preparing to rush out of bed and out of the house, should the phenomenon be repeated. One individual states, that he was outside at the time, and distinctly heard the ice crack on Dunk River, as the quaking passed along in that direction. It is said that the shock was felt more severely towards Cape Traverse than in this District. A. A. M.

Bedeque, February, 1855.

Colonial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, February 13.

Hon. George Coles, Col. Secretary; Hon. James Warburton, Col. Treasurer; Hon. Edward Whelan, Queen's Printer; Hon. Robert Mooney, Registrar of Deeds; and William E. Clarke, Esq., Collector of Excise, were sworn in as Members of the House, on their re-election after their acceptance of the offices set against their respective names.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid upon the Table a Copy of Her Majesty's Commission on the subject of the Patriotic Fund, which having been read by the Clerk, the Hon. Secretary moved that the matter be referred to the Committee of Supply. In doing so, he presumed that the House would readily contribute to the subject of the Commission, as had been done in the other Colonies.

Mr. COOPER opposed the motion, arguing that it was premature, the House having not as yet ascertained the amount which would accrue to the Fund from the various Public Meetings which had been held in aid of the object. The District which he represented had contributed liberally from private means, and it would be unfair to tax those who had already paid, by an appropriation of the Public Funds.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN, in reply to Mr. Cooper, alluded to the various public meetings which had been held throughout the Island, to raise contributions to that fund, at which meetings a resolution was passed, expressing the wish of the inhabitants that the Legislature should make such appropriation to the fund as the state of the revenue and the exigencies

of the public service would allow; and it was a well known fact that such a resolution had been adopted by some of those meetings held in the immediate vicinity of the residence of the hon. gentleman who had last spoken. Although the subscriptions thus raised displayed a liberal and generous feeling on the part of the people of this Colony, there was no reason why the Legislature should neglect the great example set by the Parliaments of the other provinces, especially when it is known that the various peoples represented in those parliaments were likewise voluntary contributors to the Patriotic Fund.

Mr. COOPER thought that as the session had but just commenced, it would be advisable to postpone any action until the aggregate amount of voluntary contributions had been ascertained.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY explained that no particular sum was now demanded. His motion being merely for a reference to the Committee of Supply, that the various meetings manifested clearly the feelings of the people on the subject. That the returns of the different collections would shortly be before the hon. members, but that he hoped and believed that the sum granted by the House, would be voted irrespective of such returns. That the revenue this year exceeded that of the last by £11,000, and that the people of the Island feeling that the brave men engaged in the war, were fighting their battles, although not paid or fed by them, would cheerfully contribute what could be spared from the public purse towards the comfort and support of their widows and orphans.

Mr. HAVILAND had hoped that no opposition would have been made to the motion. Even if £5000 had been collected out of doors, that fact should have no influence on the House, the members of which he hoped would, in their Legislative capacity, augment the sum raised for the unhappy widows and orphans.

Hon. F. LONGWORTH coincided with the last speaker, and added that they who had subscribed liberally from their private means would have no objection to a public appropriation, while they who had declined to contribute should be made to do so indirectly by the Legislative grant.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN repudiated the idea of taking the amount of private subscriptions as a guide to the House in fixing the amount to be voted in supply. At a numerously attended meeting at Murray Harbor, on the subject, not only did the people subscribe very liberally, but expressly authorized their representatives to vote for a public grant. In looking over the newspapers, he found that the sums subscribed by individuals in the Island bore a greater proportion to their means, than was shown by the returns of some parts of the Mother Country, where greater personal interest must naturally be felt in the case.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY deprecated all allusion to the neighbouring Colonies—Prince Edward Island had been treated very differently from them. They had cause for gratitude to the British Government, but this Island was down-trodden by the Imperial Authorities, and the method now proposed of augmenting the fund, by taxing the people who did not choose to contribute and rendered the term "Patriotic" a misnomer.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON thought that the amount raised elsewhere was no criterion for the House. He could speak for the people whom he represented, not 20 men there were opposed to the grant, and from his knowledge of his constituents, can state their wish that the grant should be a liberal one.

Motion then agreed to, that the Commission be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN moved the appointment of a Committee on Public Accounts. The following gentlemen were appointed: Wightman, McDonald, Perry, Whelan, Longworth, Clarke and Haviland.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY laid on the table a classified statement of the Public Accounts, by which it appears, that the actual expenditure for the last year was £52,898 5s. 8d., including the amount of £18,000 paid for the Worrel Estate, against the receipt of £46,033 16s. 6d. Deducting, however, the purchase money of the Worrel Estate, which cannot be fairly charged against the expenditure for the year, would leave a surplus of £11,135 5s. 10d., over the expenditure, and after paying the balance of the previous year against the Colony of £3,028 11s. 6d., would leave the sum of £8,106 14s. 4d., clear of Treasury Notes, Debentures and unpaid Warrants.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON laid on the table the Treasurer's Accounts for the last year. Mr. Clarke presented the Impost Accounts from Bedeque. Mr. McDonald presented the Light and Impost Accounts for the District of Georgetown—referred to Committee on Public Accounts.

On the motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary the standing order of the House requiring notice of the introduction of Bills, was suspended to enable him to introduce three Bills, brought down as Government measures, viz., Tenant's Compensation Bill, Bill for appointing Sheriff, and Bill for taking census, which were read a first time, and it was resolved that the Tenant's Compensation Bill should be read a second time on Thursday next, and the two others to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, February 14.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY having presented the correspondence relative to the purchase of the Worrel estate, after the same had been read by the clerk, said,—Mr. Speaker, as the government deem it but right that every informant, with reference to the subject-matter of the documents just read, should be furnished not only to the tenantry living on the estate, but to the public at large, I move their publication. And I can inform the House that the government will be able to sell the best lands, fronting on the rivers and main post roads, at 12s. 6d. per acre, and those on the Cardigan and other roads at 10s. per acre, the wilderness lands from 5s. to 10s. per acre. I will also state, sir, that the bonds formerly given to Mr. Worrel by parties wishing to purchase, and by which they agreed to pay 30s. or 40s. per acre, will be cancelled, and they will be allowed to purchase at the rate of 12s. 6d. per acre, with two years' interest on their bonds. A further boon will be granted to those tenants who are in arrears by a remission of all save two years' rent, while, in many instances, eight or ten years' rent is due. To this no tenant can reasonably object. By the agreement made with Messrs. Pope & Co., all debts due from the estate were to be transferred to the government. Sir, the government was informed by them that they had received no money since they had purchased the property. But shortly after that statement had been made, a person came to me with a receipt acknowledging the payment of £50, and Messrs. Pope & Co. had to submit to the deduction of that amount from the purchase money.

Mr. COOPER.—I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to object to the motion for publication. On the contrary, I think it right that all publicity should be given to the documents. I cannot, however, approve of the conduct of the government in concluding the purchase, without previous investigation of the title they were about to acquire.

Hon. Mr. PALMER.—Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the publication of the papers we have just heard read; but, sir, I should like to know in what manner, and through what channels it is intended to make them public. Is it intended that they shall be published merely in the *Royal Gazette*. Sir, I hope they will appear in all the newspapers in the Island, for not only the tenantry on the estate but every man in the Colony is deeply interested in the matter. If so large a sum of public money has been applied to the purchase of this particular property, every tenant, eye, every tax-payer, should know what had occurred. All parties, whether tenants to Lord Selkirk, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Cunard,

or any other proprietor, should know the course pursued towards the Worrel tenantry; and have a right to expect the same favor would be shown to them. I therefore trust that the correspondence will be published in all the papers, although I do not believe that the bill will be self-sustaining, nor will it confer all the benefits anticipated by its advocates.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY.—Mr. Speaker, one would suppose, from the tenor of the last speaker's observations, that the Hon. Secretary wished to restrict the publicity to be given to those documents. Sir, such never was the thought of the Hon. Secretary, or the government. We wish all the papers to publish them. I, sir, may state that I never was opposed to the purchase, although it was stated in one of the public journals that when the Executive Council were deliberating on the propriety of concluding the purchase, I was at Flinty Glen and the Hon. Mr. Warburton in the United States. Sir, that statement is false. At the time alluded to, I was not at Flinty Glen, nor was Mr. Warburton in the States.

(To be continued.)

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., FEBRUARY 19, 1855.

The House of Assembly has proceeded steadily with the business of the Session since Tuesday last. Important documents have been laid before it by Government, partly noticed in the reports—petitions have been presented—and three of those measures noticed in our last paper have been introduced, and sanctioned by the House, namely, a Bill to vest the appointment of Sheriffs in the Government—a Bill for taking the Census, and the Tenant's Compensation Bill. On Saturday the House resumed Supply, and voted £1000, in accordance with the prayer of a petition of the Royal Agricultural Society, for the importation of Stud Horses. So much of our space is occupied with the favors of correspondents and reports of public meetings in reference to the Patriotic Fund, that we are precluded from noticing at any considerable length the proceedings of the Legislature so far. We shall endeavour to make up for this next week.

The Lady of the Lieut. Governor entertained a numerous and highly delighted party at Government House on Friday evening. Dancing commenced about half past nine o'clock, and was kept up with great spirit until about half past two, when the guests separated.

A house in Richmond Street, occupied by Mr. P. McCarron, caught fire on Thursday morning, about 3 o'clock, and was only saved from destruction by the energy and alacrity of two young boys, who discovered it at the moment of its breaking out, and at once alarmed the inmates of the house and neighbourhood.

The Colonial and United States Mails arrived here on Thursday night. We understand the English Mail had arrived at Halifax, and may be here this evening or to-morrow morning. The following telegraphic intelligence is taken from a late St. John paper.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The steamship *Atlantic* arrived at New York on the 8th instant, with Liverpool dates to the 27th January. Lord John Russell has resigned, and it was expected the whole Ministry will go out of office. Public feeling seems favourable to peace. Sebastopol dates are to the 14th Jan. Affairs were so changed, except that the British army is in a wretched condition, owing to mismanagement.

Occasional sorties were made; weather very cold. The Vienna Conference will assemble in the middle of February. The Swedish army is placed on a war footing. The Queen of Sardinia is dead. The English Government has been severely denounced in Parliament. 40,000 Russians, with 80 guns, were concentrated at Perekop. Consols closed at 91½ to 61½. Broadstuffs dull at previous rates. Provisions unchanged.

SECOND DESPATCH.

The Atlantic brings 58 passengers, among whom are the Hon. G. Upham and family.

The steamship *Great Britain* arrived at Liverpool with £350,000 in gold from Australia.

The chief feature of the news centres in the proceedings of the British Parliament, in which the Government have been severely denounced.

On Friday night, Lord John Russell gave an explanation of his conduct. The general opinion is that the whole Ministry must go out of office. The public feeling seems leaning towards peace.

THE CRIMEA.—Gen. Lipradi had again abandoned his outposts to the Tchernaya. Sebastopol dates of the 14th Jan., announce that sickness was increasing in the camp.

The Russians had made two sorties, but were repulsed with considerable loss. The weather had been cold, but was getting milder.

Considerable reinforcements were reaching the Allies. Letters state that the French had mined the Flag Staff Battery, and only waited a favourable opportunity to blow it up.

Menshikoff is reported to have said:—"Our troops may rest, Generals January, February and March will fight our battles far better than we can."

The Russians had retained and re-occupied the Quarantine Fort.

Gen. Brown was about to resume his command in the Crimea.

The Allies were about to establish a hospital for 2000 men at Smyrna, and an establishment for Convalescents at Rhodes.

The Russians report numerous desertions from the Allies to the Russian ranks.

St. Petersburg letters of the 18th Jan. are of a pacific character.

An Odessa letter of the 6th says:—"The Russians will shortly assume the offensive in the Crimea, having received large reinforcements."

It was reported at Vienna on the 25th, that a battle had been fought before Sebastopol, in which the Russians were victorious, but authentic advices from Balaklava the next day contradicted it.

It was positively asserted that Omar Pasha's force would begin operations on the 18th January, by advancing under cover of the artillery of the fleets along the coast. The last of the Turkish convoys left Varna on the 14th for Balaklava.

IRELAND.

SALE OF PORTARLINGTON ESTATES.—The residue of the vast estates of the Earl of Portarlington, situate in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary, was put up for sale on Tuesday in the Encumbered Estates Court. The property was set out in 77 lots, the gross rental of which was estimated at £21,172 1s 1d. The court throughout the day was crowded to suffocation, and the bidding from first to last was extremely spirited. The amount of the sale was the largest produced in a single day since the new land tribunal commenced the great work of social revolution in Ireland.