

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1869.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guarantee of their good faith.

THE EXAMINER.

As we fully anticipated, we have incurred the wrath of our sweet tempered, profoundly learned, and severely polite contemporary the Examiner, for having presumed to say a word in favor of the government of the much abused Mother Country.

TOP KNOT COME DOWN.

THE NEW JUDGESHIP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL.

Now that the Legislature have determined to amend the Constitution of our Supreme Court, it is to be hoped that in filling the newly-created seat on the Bench, the Government will be actuated only by a desire to put the right man in the right place, and will not measure a man's fitness for the appointment by his political predilections.

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The income of the Sheriff of New York city is estimated at \$100,000 per annum; and that the fees of the Ludlow street jail alone are worth about \$35,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL;

DEAR SIR: Enclosed is an abridgement of a letter that was prepared for the Presbyterian, in answer to grave charges against a certain bookseller, —I agree that I am the one referred to, —by "A Layman" and others; but the Editors dishonored themselves by doing me the injustice of refusing to publish it—except such parts of it as might suit them, with your comments. By giving place to this in your valuable paper, you would gratify your readers, who are anxious to know the truth of the case, and oblige

Your Friend, DIMOCK ARCHIBALD. Summerside, April 19, 1869.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN;

Dear Sirs:—

Since your paper was first published, I have noticed, several times, slanderous and untruthful statements respecting my character and doings. Hitherto I have not thought it worth my time to notice them. In your issue of Dec. 30th, appeared an article over the signature of "A Layman," who, no doubt, thinking to advance the cause of the oppressed, has so much attacked me, and has so unadvisedly slandered me. The thought occurred to me that he could not be reckoned among the "Wise Men," or he would not have adopted that method of accomplishing his object. Any person of wisdom knows that when a man descends to the low, degrading office of tale-bearer and slanderer, with the object of injuring the good name of individuals, it looks as if all other good grounds on which to rest his cause, had been swept away, and, as it were, in a death struggle, the last resort is to pull others down to the same level with themselves. I am reminded of the saying of one of the wise men of Greece, when a friend advised him to contradict the many slanderous reports respecting him; he replied, "This no matter, I will endeavor so to live that no one will believe them." I have been some time at a loss to know what course to pursue, in order to profit by the advice contained in Prov. 26: 4, 5; but have decided that, as it is a public offence, it would be proper to follow the advice contained in the fifth verse, and answer through the same medium that the offence was given. Passing over the first part of the letter as unworthy of note, as I have no desire for controversy, we come to his base and groundless accusation respecting the character of my books. It appears certain that he has never examined my stock, as I can not find a case where he has sold a book of an immoral character. At the outset of my business I determined to sell only that class of books which would have some tendency for good, and if the business could not be made a paying one by adhering to that rule, to relinquish it at once. When I have found any books of a doubtful character, I have burned them rather than sell them. As I am unable to read all the books I sell, it would not be surprising if some book should pass through my hands that was objectionable.

His next charge is equally groundless and mean: that of extracting books from people's libraries, of being pursued, and books retaken. I cannot call to mind anything that would give the least foundation to such a report, and it is to me very mysterious that an event so humiliating a character should make no impression on my mind. For the accommodation of my customers, I have kept a second-hand stock, and have often exchanged when persons desired to, and found themselves suited. Any person can see the folly of such a statement, and it is not necessary for this book to be taken without receiving value in return. The assertions that have at different times been made, that I am an agent sent out by the Baptists, I most positively deny, as I received neither an appointment from them nor any encouragement in my work, more than I did from Presbyterians.

In conclusion, I would advise him, when next he is tempted by the adversary to slander his neighbor, to meditate for a short time upon the 18th verse of the 10th Chapter of Proverbs.

I remain Yours respectfully, DIMOCK ARCHIBALD. Jan. 19, 1869.

P. S.—Since writing the above, Rev. Mr. M. has again asserted that I have disposed of books of a licentious character. I would inform him that the books referred to are among the standard works of our medical men, and are ordered by them to complete their libraries; and the same books are kept for sale at Elder D. Laird's and H. A. Harris's, and, for all I know, all the other booksellers on the Island.

In view of all these facts, I will now leave it to my readers to imagine, which they easily can, what are the motives of the Editors of the Presbyterian in publishing such scandal.

D. A. MR. EDITOR.—

The Resolution of the Board of Education, in the matter of the Rev. Augustus McKeckel, Rector of St. Dunstan's, and Mr. McRae, Grammar School Teacher, published in your last issue, has commanded no little attention in this place. Public curiosity is strongly excited to know what members of the Board were present, when such an unbusiness-like and child's-play Resolution was passed,—one which indirectly yet very plainly censured one of our parties, before his case was heard, and his defence considered. English subjects are not in the habit of standing tamely by, and seeing any of their number dealt with in this manner; and the Board of Education, in thus engraving upon its proceedings the old, intolcrant, inquisitorial style, has caused its character and influence to be very much depreciated throughout the country.

Let us look at the facts of the case. The master of our Grammar School, while quietly and steadily pursuing his labors of instruction, is suddenly interrupted, one fine day, by the unannounced entrance of the Head of Saint Dunstan's College, who, in no very bland and friendly manner, signifies his intention of examining the school. During his stay, he conducts himself in such a manner as to lower the authority of the master, and lessen the respect of the scholars. He mutters something about £20,000 being expended upon Education, giving the idea that, bestowed on such unsecular and ill-conducted institutions as the Grammar School, it is thrown away. He disagrees with the answers of some of the plainest and easiest of his answers, and when the indignant master defends himself by the best and standard authorities, takes issue with the master and authorities also. Instead of acting in this unbecoming manner, Mr. McDonald, as the Educational Representative of the Government, and having the interest of the Government, education, and the country at heart, should have wisely and benignly advised Mr. McKee of any deficiency he saw, or if any improvements he wished to suggest. Instead of this, however, his whole conduct in the school, and his conversation with the Trustees subsequently, combined to throw discredit on the interests of education here.

It is the opinion of many that the subsequent disparaging remarks of the would-be examiner, and his brusqueness (to use a mild term) in the school, were intended to hide his own mortification. To find himself, as Rector of St. Dunstan's, unable to question Mr. McKee's scholars, and to have the deficiencies of his own education so wittingly exposed, must have been no small humiliation. We can hardly wonder at his ill-humor. His opinion of the school, when viewed in con-

junction with his inability to cope with the master and scholars, is of about the same weight as that of any other partially educated person.

Here is certainly an expose of that peculiar sectarian system, which is now trying to overpower and crush all other schools in the Island. The conclusion is apparent. All that we have heard lately of the superior of the Convent and Monastery over other institutions, is finely illustrated. Those who may have been dazzled by high-sounding words and theories, and persuaded to rob the common school to pay others, will now, perhaps, remember that "all is not gold that glitters."

Mr. McDonald has been forced to "get behind the Board," and to cover up the route in his scholastic reputation by having published a very general and common-place resolution of the members, respecting his supposed "scholastic abilities." This of itself is the worst thing he could have done. Let him come out openly, and clear himself from the charge of ignorance, if he can, and not take refuge behind generalities and assumptions. If the Board is satisfied with his abilities, it is more than an awakened public is. We recommend him to clear himself, especially in the matter of Latin and Geography.

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One of the present Judges enjoys, unfortunately, the reputation of being not a little too overbearing, and addicted to the habit of claiming immediate acquiescence from his brother Justice, in his dicta. Mr. Palmer's stern and uncompromising character, and his appreciation of the necessity of mature deliberation in judicial proceedings, would furnish a salutary check against a hasty and arrogant demeanor. He would not be alleged, no doubt, that the "Liberals" are now in the ascendancy, their present Attorney General has the first claim to the new office; but it should be remembered that in making a choice in this important matter, the political creed of a man should neither be an objection to, or recommendation for the situation. The man best qualified, and in whom the country has the greatest confidence,—he who combines in his person these advantages, is fairly and honorably entitled to the office in question.

Other considerations of a delicate nature, but equally patent to all, should influence Mr. Hensley against urging himself as an aspirant for the Bench as at present constituted. Let this gentleman do the graceful and disinterested thing, by recommending his venerable opponent, the Hon. Edward Palmer, for the appointment to the third Judgeship, and the public will see in his act a sincere determination to do his part for the good of the country.

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of her again, as she started up from the ground near me, with her fuses leveled at my innocent head. She ordered me to surrender, and I surrendered at discretion, rather than have the rocks covered with my valuable brains. She directed me to march along before her, and said that she would speak with me if I would go where she wished me to go. I obeyed, and we went on in that fashion, until we came in sight of two savages, who immediately sprang upon me with tomahawks and knives. I shot the first through the head and the second through the heart, and you ought to have seen how surprised the fellow looked when he discovered my gun could shoot twice without being loaded. It was the best joke I have had lately.

"Drop that!" growled Barbeau. "Before I could look around, or think of any thing else, I found myself surrounded by half a dozen Blacks, who threw me down and manum me, and tied my hands in a few seconds of time. Among them was this old fellow who brought me to you, and I verily believe that he would have murdered me in cold blood, if it had not been for Annette, who talked to him as if she ought to be obeyed."

"So she ort. She's a creetur as has a will of her own. 'Pears like you've tuck a rather strong notion to that gal, stranger."

"If I had not been anxious to see her and speak with her, I would not have followed her, and would not have been caught in this scrape."

"She's a mighty gal, stranger."

"I think so. Are you her father, sir?"

"Not adzactly. I call myself her dad; but I'm her grand dad, in p'int of fact. I am old, young chap, that you are the son of a rich man in old Virginy."

"I belong to a very respectable family, sir—almost too respectable, in fact, for the rough and tumble of this wicked world."

"As your father is a rich man, I allow that you must be to'able rich yourself, or expect to be."

"I am reasonably well off, old beaver, in the treasures of this world, and they are as yet uncorrupted by moth or rust. If I should continue to live, and some very respectable people of my acquaintance should conclude to die, I will have a sufficiency of earth's pomps and vanities to support a small family in ease and comfort."

"I can't adzactly level my sight, onto all you say, young chap; but ease and comfort—that's the thing, specially in old age. How was it that you happened to come out into these hyar mountings?"

"I did not happen to come, my inquisitive friend; but came with a deliberate design, and of my own free will and accord."

"But what the thunder sent you hyar?"

"It was not thunder that sent me, but, rather, the lack of it."

To be Continued.

News Items.

PROTECTION.—We are glad to find that all our American cousins are not crazily enamoured after protection. Many sensible men in the United States see clearly that the burden of taxation imposed by protective tariffs falls upon the consumers—that is, the mass of the people; and that the special interests designed to be fostered are, in reality, checked and held back from all progress. At the recent meeting of the Boston Social Science Association, Mr. Atkinson, in which the evils of the restrictive system and the advantages of the liberal policy were clearly stated, showing that there has never been a system of protection so well devised as that which is known as British Free Trade, which is the protection of non-interference and the collection of revenue from results and not from processes.—Ontario Paper.

—A correspondent of the Montreal Gazette says:—It surprises me not a little when I read or hear anxious utterances, and I am led to ask, what do such people want? Do they not see, that while every European Government is daily becoming more tolerant, liberal and just; that that of our neighbours is becoming more and more corrupt and despotic? Is it clear that there is not a people on the earth having any claims to civilization—saying nothing of Christianity—that have so corrupt a government as that of Washington and the States of the Union. Apologists tell us this is the consequence of the large emigration to the States of the Union. That the restless and revolutionary spirits which come among them from the Kingdoms of Europe, are chargeable mainly with these evils. But this is a mistake. These emigrants do not become the judges, governors, magistrates, &c., &c. of the Union. It is with these and the political leaders, generally, that the corruptions are found; the emigrants are but tools in the hands of the se.

No person that compares the Government of the United States and its results, as seen in every part of their vast country; with that of any in Europe,—one or two excepted,—will compare its present condition with what it was some forty or fifty years ago, but would say, if not infatuated by the mania of democracy—from any nearer connection than that of a neighbour may a Merciful Providence preserve us.

The New York Times of Friday, says:—"The English journals which fancy that the American people are determined to force a war upon England, are entirely mistaken. The interests of this country are opposed to a war with England, and the predominant sentiment is opposed to war upon any such issues as now exist. The "Alabama" claims are capable of settlement by negotiation, and all that is required of the English government is to concede the just demands which we have against them. We assure our London contemporaries that the American people have not the slightest inclination to force a war upon England."

Some of the English journals announce the probable retirement of Mr. John Bright from office. The cares of place appear to weary him. He looks jaded, almost dejected, and seems to have entirely lost that fresh, healthy tone which has so strikingly distinguished him.

The Americans are no longer the best customers of Great Britain. The inhabitants of the colonies consume nearly twice as much per head of British products as the Americans do. Last year, Germany took upwards of \$5,000,000 worth more of British goods than the United States did. India alone, in 1868, took as large an amount of British goods as the American Union, and is now taking about \$105,000,000 worth per annum.

It is estimated that in Great Britain the annual consumption of intoxicating liquors is 1,025,000,000 galls, upon which a tax of \$120,000,000 is paid.

THE HUDSON BAY TERRITORY.—We have the gratifying announcement to make that the Hudson Bay Company have acceded to Earl Granville's proposal, and have ceded their rights in the North West Territory for the sum of \$300,000. Thus the work of consolidation goes bravely on.—Halifax Reporter.

what is more necessary, of independent position with regard to the other Judges, and in no way connected or related to them or either of them, so that no supposed influence such as family compact or relationship can possibly arise in any case. The Government keeping this in view, can hardly fail to make the proper appointment.

THE LATE EXECUTION.

There is a good deal of indignation in the country at the manner in which the execution of the unfortunate man George Dowe, was performed. We hardly wonder at it. The principal circumstances attending that execution are peculiarly harassing to the feelings. Capital punishment is a dreadful thing to contemplate, in its mildest and least painful form. A great many in these days consider it nothing less than a crime to deprive a fellow creature of life, under almost any circumstance. All agree that where the safety of society demands the offender's life be a forfeit to the outraged laws, he should be deprived of it in as painless a manner as is possible under the circumstances. Torture, properly so called, either mental or physical, forms no part of the punishment of the modern criminal. The sentence of the law should be carried out without inflicting a single unnecessary pang on the condemned man. But we should be careful in dealing out our censure that we are not guilty of a cruelty more refined and more merciless than that which we so loudly reprobate. No one, on cool reflection, will venture to assert that the unnecessary anguish which Dowe suffered was wantonly inflicted. We know the Sheriff of Queen's County to be as tender-hearted and as humane a gentleman as is to be found on the Island. We can easily imagine that the thought of the dreadful duty which he was compelled to perform preyed upon his mind, depriving him of needful rest and comfort. He, no doubt, was most anxious that the execution should be attended with as little suffering to the poor criminal as the nature of the punishment would permit. He had no experience in such matters, neither had anyone whom he could employ. He must have evidently hoped that no untoward accident would occur. We have no hesitation in expressing our belief that as far as his knowledge extended he made every provision against the occurrence of any such accident. When those terrible mishaps did take place, we verily believe that no one, not even the unhappy victim himself, suffered greater agony than did the unhappy Sheriff. He certainly must feel acutely the blame which many attach to him, for his share in the unhappy proceedings. We think that much of this censure is both cruel and unjust. He had an exceedingly painful duty to perform. He performed it to the best of his ability. The unnecessary suffering which poor Dowe was forced to undergo, was unforeseen and unintentional. Is the Sheriff then to be blamed? Is he not much rather to be pitied? We for our part deeply sympathise with him.

In the same way, in their excitement and horror, many persons reflect upon the Administrator of the Government for allowing Dowe to be put to death. We cannot, for our part, see the justice of this. Sir Robert Hodgson's official superiors were appealed to. They decided against interfering with the due course of law. What could Sir Robert then do? His hands were tied. He could not reverse the decision of the Home authorities. There is hardly a doubt as to what his personal feelings were in the matter, but men in responsible situations acting under o.th, have stern duties to perform to which private inclination and leanings must be sacrificed.

As to the prisoner Dowe, the manly and truly christian fortitude with which he met his fate, has extorted the wondering admiration of the whole community. His humble but courageous demeanor in prison and on the scaffold, has taken every trace of ignominy from his execution.

The above remarks were intended for our last issue, but were laid over in order to await the publication of the following letter from the Sheriff to the Government.

It clearly exonerates the Sheriff from all blame in the matter:—

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CHARLOTTETOWN, 7th April, 1869.

To the Hon. Joseph Hensley, Attorney General.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of to-day's date, in which you state that considerable public feeling and excitement connected with George Dowe's execution; that the rope broke, and that, though seriously injured, he was not executed at the first attempt; that a new rope being procured, through some cause, the prisoner fell heavily upon the ground, that his suffering were not ended until he was again raised by hauling in the rope. In accordance with your desire I now, after mature deliberation, beg leave to make the following statement of facts regarding the public execution of the very unfortunate man, "George Dowe."

At a reasonable time before the day named in the Death Warrant, delivered to me for the execution of the criminal, I applied to and ordered the carpenter who had charge of all Jail work (Mr. Thomas Essery) to erect a gallows according to the best plan and specification that could be obtained in this colony. He prepared with dispatch a plan of that structure, which, with some alterations, I approved of. Orders were given him to procure substantial material, and on Monday evening the gallows was erected and completed. It was inspected by me and by others in every particular, and I felt perfectly satisfied as to its stability and firmness, and all the arrangements connected with it. The drop, the rope, the material used in its erections were all to my observation and inspection satisfactory, and apparently secure and strong. After much diligent inquiry and search, and great exertions, I procured a person to fill the dreaded and honorable post of hangman; and to the best of my ability, the discharge of my onerous duty, instructed him how to act. I applied to his Honor Sir Robert Hodgson, Knight, Administrator of the Government, for the presence of a military force on the day of the execution, which was promptly replied to; and punctually, on yesterday, that force was on the ground under my direction. On Tuesday (yesterday morning), an early hour, I again inspected the gallows, which I found in a satisfactory condition. The rope, which the day before I had procured after searching Charlottetown from one end to the other, was apparently the best and most secure I could find. It was

termed two inch rope, before being stretched in the sail loft, new, and apparently strong, secure, and safe. With great difficulty I got a person to make the hangman's knot. It was made on this rope with all care and caution, and placed in the hangman's hands on Tuesday morning, all ready for use, and full instructions given him.

The criminal was allowed every indulgence he desired that was consistent with my duty as Sheriff. He named the time he wished to be brought to the scaffold, and requested that the rope might not be put around his neck until after he had time to make his address to the people, which I at once acceded to. When the prisoner had ascended the scaffold, delivered his speech to the people, and intimated to me the fact of his readiness to be executed, I gave directions to the hangman, and the short piece of rope which was put round his neck (the rope was about six feet long) was attached properly to a long and larger rope from the gallows passing through a groove on the top piece of the gallows, and attached, and the other end brought in to the scaffold through a hole in one of the boards enclosing the same and there made fast to a cleat; this was done in order that the body might be lowered down into the coffin without having to cut it down, as was formerly done in such cases. There was no block or tackle provided or used, as was falsely reported in the Herald newspaper. There was a large running sheave fixed over two pieces of plank for the large rope to rest on, and the other part of the drop to pass over, and then through a tube in the scaffold, and there made fast to a cleat. This was done to provide against the possibility of the rope fouling when cut. The criminal had a drop of about five feet, which was sufficient, in my opinion, to insure instant death. On my giving the word, the rope was cut, the drop fell, and by some unforeseen cause, the rope broke and the prisoner fell to the ground. No great strain appeared to have been given to his neck, and he was not materially injured, although the shock of the fall stunned and stupefied him. None of his limbs were broken, as has been currently and falsely reported. He was brought back into jail with the assistance of three policemen, and was replaced in his cell; and from that time until he was brought out for the second time on the scaffold, he was engaged in prayer with his spiritual advisers, conversing with them and with myself. Without delay, and consistent with my duty I had to perform, I applied the larger rope (that which I had attached to the former one round the prisoner's neck), and with all due diligence and caution prepared a second time to carry out the mandate of the law. Strictly investigating again every part of the gallows, I felt perfectly satisfied in my own mind that all was secure and safe. The prisoner was then brought out, and the hangman adjusted the rope. I gave him, a second time, the word. He obeyed. The drop of the rope was about three feet. The cleat, previously giving way, the rope ran through the groove of the gallows till his feet came to the ground, but I am perfectly certain from Dr. Mackieson's testimony, from other information, and from my own observation, that his neck was then dislocated, and with the exception of two slight convulsive shudders, he then ceased to live. You state that on this occasion the prisoner fell heavily on the ground, and that he had to be raised again to end his sufferings. I would wish entirely to disabuse your mind and the minds of others of that statement, for it is not a fact. The reason he was raised was merely to be sure his feet were actually off the ground, so that in accordance with the Doctor's directions he should be suspended for the space of forty minutes before being lowered into his coffin.

I am aware that it is due to humanity, to public feeling, and indeed due to myself, that I, as the public officer, having had the responsibility upon me, should make a plain statement of the facts of this sad case; and I can assure you, Sir, that the Government and people of Prince Edward Island, according to my judgment, every precaution was taken to ensure the speedy, secure, and satisfactory execution of George Dowe, not only in obedience to the Death Warrant placed in my hands, but according to the dictates of the humane feeling of saving the wretched culprit from protracted mental agony. And I kindly thank you, Sir, that you have called on me, and given me this opportunity of stating the full particulars of this unfortunate affair.

It was out of a feeling of humanity that so much delay was given him, and it was done in order that his pain and suffering might be ended at once; but unfortunately it had a different result, as no doubt the drop of five feet was partially the cause of the rope breaking.

In conclusion, I would have to say that no occurrence, during the whole course of my life, has caused me such mental agony as the circumstances arising out of this unfortunate execution of George Dowe, although I feel conscious of having discharged my duties faithfully.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obt' humble servant, FRANCIS LONGWORTH, Sheriff.

P. S.—As regards the cause of the breaking of the rope, I do not know the reason, nor can I explain the cause; but there is the bare possibility that, in the stretching of it in the sail loft, some of the fibres of the inside of the rope might have been parted, thereby lessening its strength to a certain degree; and still being quite imperceptible to me, or to anyone else. I annex the certificate of Dr. Mackieson, the medical attendant of the Jail.

CHARLOTTETOWN, April 8. I do hereby certify that I attended the execution of George Dowe, and report as follows:—

I examined him immediately on his being brought into the jail, after the first fall, and found that none of his limbs were fractured as reported, nor had he suffered any material injury, save a little contusion on the side of the neck, and the effects of the shock arising from the height of his fall, producing some dizziness and faintness, but he could converse distinctly and intelligibly, and was in a little delirium, appeared to have suffered but little.

I offered him a glass of wine, but he refused to drink, saying that he had procured and made up his mind to take nothing.

I also examined the body after execution, and found that he was perfectly dead,—having been suspended 40 minutes,—the vertebrae of the neck having suffered dislocation in his second fall, when death must have been instantaneous.

J. M. MCKIESON, Medical attendant of the Jail.

BLACKWOOD for February has been received. The contents are unusually interesting. We wish we had space to notice them at large. "A Comedy of Errors" is continued, each portion being very readable by itself.

"On Army Organization" is a most interesting article, and if studied would do much to allay apprehension in these days, when so many fear that the enormous masses of the Republicans would be more than a match for the veteran, disciplined red-coats. "In Life