COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, April 9, 1866.

At three o'clock this day His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas, came down to the Council Chamber, and was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-second General Assembly of this Island. His Excellency was received in front of the Colonial Building by a Guard of honor of the detachment of Her Majesty's 15th Regt., stationed at Charlottetown.

After a copy of his Excellency's Speech was read to the House from the Speaker's Chair—the Hon. J. C. Pope, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, laid on the table the Sheriff's return to the writ issued for the election of a member for the First District of King's County, in room of the Hon. Donald Beaton, deceased. The Hon. Emanuel McEachen, returned member for said district, then appeared at the bar, and having been introduced by the Hon. Mr. Hensley and F. Brecken, Esq., took the necessary oaths, and his seat.

The usual standing Committees for the Session were then appointed, the most important being as follows: Committee to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Messrs. Brecken, Yeo, Haslam, Hon. E. McEachen, Messrs. Duncan, McLennan, and Howat—Committee on Public Accounts: Messrs. McLennan, Yeo, Duncan, Haslam, Hon. G. Coles, Mr. Howlan, Hon. J. Hensley.

On motion of the Hon. J. C. Pope, seconded by Mr. Haslam—Ordered that the Thirteenth Rule of the House be suspended to enable a Member to introduce a Bill—after which he presented a Bill, for transferring the funds raised by the sale of the old Military Barracks in Charlottetown for the purposes therein mentioned. He (Hon. Mr. Pope) then said that since the passing of the Act to which the Bill alluded, touching the sale of the Barrack property, it became necessary to purchase land and erect new Barracks and other buildings for the accommodation of Her Majesty's troops in this Island. It was, therefore, he said, deemed expedient that the funds arising from the sale of the old Barrack property should be applied towards the repayment of the moneys advanced by the Government for the erection of the new Barracks, and other buildings connected therewith.

Hon. Mr. Coles opposed the introduction of the bill, on the ground that it was a bill appropriating money, and should therefore have originated in a Committee of the whole House; and he also said it was unconstitutional. Hons. J. Hensley and J. Warburton supported the objections raised by the Hon. Mr. Coles.

Hon. Sol. General and Mr. Longworth supported the introduction of the bill, the object of which was not to impose a burthen, but to remove it, by enabling the Government to transfer a grant for the relief of the people.

After some discussion, the House divided on the question as follows—

Yeas: Hons. J. C. Pope, Solicitor General, D. Davies, D. Kaye, J. Longworth, J. H. Gray, E. McEachen; Messrs. Haslam, Ramsay, McLennan, Yeo, Brecken, Duncan—13.

Nays: Hons. G. Coles, Whelan, Warburton, Thornton, Laird, Hensley; Messrs. Conroy, Howlan, Howat—9.

Carried in the affirmative.

The Bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

The customary order relative to the postage of Members' letters was renewed.

Ordered, That no Petition praying for any object of a local or private character, be received after Friday, the 20th day of April, instant.

On motion of the Hon. J. C. Pope, seconded by Hon. J. Longworth, Mr. Archibald McNeill was appointed Summary Reporter, his duty being to furnish each Member daily with a printed summary of the proceedings of the House.

After which the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, April 10, 1866.

Hon. Mr. Pope proposed R. B. Irving Esq. Reporter of the House, and in doing so said it was desirable to have the Debates before hon. members with as little delay as possible—errors often occurred in the reports, and it was nothing but right that hon. members should have an opportunity of correcting them before the debates were published in the Parliamentary Reporter—this could only be done by their being laid on the table of each member while the House was in Session.

Hon. Mr. Coles said that without a staff of reporters it was impossible to have the work performed as speedily as it should be, and suggested that as there were but two applicants, it would be better to appoint them both. In the other Provinces four or five reporters were employed to keep the work up.

Hon. Col. Gray observed that the reporter last year was allowed to obtain sufficient assistance, as the gentleman now named would also, doubtless, be expected to employ such help as he might require. He regretted that in a speech of his, with the extended report of which the reporter (not the senior but his assistant) had submitted to him for revision—on reading the report he found that in one sentence his sentiments had been altogether misrepresented, in all probability from a misapprehension of his words or meaning by the reporter at the time of his taking his notes. Observing this, he not only corrected the error on the face of the report, but he also took and retained a copy of the correction. He was therefore much surprised to find, on reference to the Parliamentary Reporter, which had only been laid on his desk yesterday, that the original error, and not the correction, had been given in that record. A disclaimer now was unavailing against an authority received as the record of the House. He believed the gentleman proposed capable of undertaking the work, and would therefore second the motion of the hon. the Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Davies said it was better to have one Reporter responsible for the performance of the work on the principle adopted last Session. Speeches appearing in print six months after they were delivered, lost their interest. It was better not to have them even then, than to be inaccurately reported. It was no use to repudiate what appeared in the Parliamentary Reporter when it was placed on the list of books in the Legislative Library.

Hon. Mr. Hensley was of opinion that if any stricter rule than usual was to be adopted, it would be better to define its limits. To prevent misunderstanding, he would suggest that the Reporter be expected to furnish the House with a copy of the debate on any question within one week from the time such debate took place.

Mr. McLennan approved of the appointment of one responsible Reporter. It was useless to expend money on speeches published months after they were delivered.

Hon. Mr. Warburton said he never felt very anxious about the appearance of his speeches in public print. He was satisfied to leave the matter with the Reporter, of whom it was not proper to expect impossibilities.

Hon. Mr. Longworth said it had been very properly suggested that the debates be published with as little delay as possible, but it would not be fair to tie the Reporter down to a day.

Hon. Mr. Whelan said it was impossible to suppose that some debates, such, for instance, as the answer to His Excellency's address could be hurriedly placed before the public.

Hon. Solicitor General agreed with the Hon. Mr. Whelan. It was physically as well as morally impossible for any Reporter, however well qualified, to perform his work in the short time alluded to. It should be left to the discretion of the Reporter to employ such assistance as he required.

Mr. Howlan said it was impossible for any Reporter to give extracts, quoted in speeches, unless they were furnished him. It was therefore, the duty of hon. members to hand the Reporter such extracts in order to enable him to publish their speeches accurately.

Mr. Brecken was in favor of the adoption of a more summary mode of reporting than that hitherto practised. Nothing, excepting patent medicine notices, could be more nauseous than to be compelled to read over old speeches which appeared in print months after they were delivered.

The motion to appoint R. B. Irving Esq., Reporter to the House, was then put, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Brecken, Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare an address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, submitted a draft address which was received and read.

Ordered, That said address be referred to Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Davies, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Journals of the Session, submitted a report recommending that the tender of Mr. F. W. Hughes, being the lowest, be accepted—report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Pope, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Parliamentary Reporter, submitted the report of the Committee recommending that the tender of Mr. F. W. Hughes be accepted—report agreed to.

House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, April 11.

Hon. Mr. Longworth submitted to the House the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum—received and read.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House went into the order of the day, viz: Committee of the whole on the draft address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.—Mr. Yeo in the Chair.

The Chairman then read the whole Address which is as follows:—

To His Excellency GEORGE DUNDAS, *Esquire, Lieut. Governor, &c., &c., &c.*

May it please your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, respectfully offer to your Excellency our thanks for the Speech delivered at the opening of the present Session.

In consequence of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, we shall adopt such measures as may be required to advance and protect the commercial interests thereby affected.

We shall be glad to receive the Report of the proceedings of the Council summoned by the Governor General for the purpose of furnishing an opinion to the Imperial Government on the negotiation of Commercial Treaties. In a matter of such importance, we are pleased to hear that the interests of this Island were represented by a Delegate sent for that purpose.

We trust that the Mission to the West Indies, Brazil and Mexico, in which this Island is represented, will result in the extension of the Trade of the British North American Provinces with those countries.

It is with deep regret that we learn that the general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which have taken place in this Colony, and we cannot too strongly deprecate the conduct of the parties by whom the Tenantry were misled, and by whom they were induced to form themselves into an association so illegal, and so subversive of the rights of property as that to which your Excellency has adverted; and when the law was so openly set at defiance, we conceive that the course taken by the Government of the Colony, in calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops, was the safest and most effective that could have been adopted under the unfortunate circumstances of the case.

We shall be glad to have the papers on these subjects laid before us.

Any measure for applying the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new Barracks at present occupied by Her Majesty's troops, shall receive our best attention.

We are gratified to learn that you have recently concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the Proprietors, and that it is your intention to continue to buy out the rights of the Landowners whenever you are able to do so, on reasonable terms.

We thank your Excellency for having directed the Public Accounts for the past year and the Estimates for the present to be laid before us. We are pleased to be informed that the Revenue of the past year exceeds in amount that of any previous one; but we regret that the extraordinary outlay which was caused by the measures requisite for the suppression of the disturbances occasioned by the lawless association alluded to by your Excellency, has caused the expenditure to be greater than the Revenue.

It is with feelings of just pride that we have observed the loyalty and spirit evinced by our fellow-subjects in the neighbouring Provinces when threatened by piratical attacks at the hands of lawless men; and we beg to assure your Excellency that should a similar emergency unfortunately occur in this Island, your Excellency could rely with confidence on a like spirit in its inhabitants, of every creed and station; and we will limit the necessity of doing all in our power towards making due preparation for such an emergency by earnestly considering the Laws by which the Militia and Volunteer Forces are at present regulated.

It is satisfactory to be informed that the Stock for the Model or Stock Farm, purchased in England, arrived in good condition, and we shall cheerfully vote a sufficient sum for the support of an institution so well calculated to advance the agricultural interests of the Colony.

We join with your Excellency in the fervent prayer that our deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, conduce to the welfare and prosperity of this Island.

The paragraph touching the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, called forth a debate which will appear in the extended Reports of the House. The necessity of guarding, fostering, and protecting our fishing interests, under present circumstances, was urged by hon. members on both sides of the House, and whilst it was regretted that the trade between the Provinces and the United States would suffer very materially from the loss of the Treaty, yet the hope that the otherwise dormant energies of the Colonies would now be called forth, and that no sacrifice of Colonial interests would be made—was very generally expressed. After which, the paragraph was adopted.

The paragraph was then read, relating to the disturbances which took place in, and marred the prosperity of, the Colony during the past year, and which resulted in calling in the aid of her Majesty's Troops.

To this paragraph, the Hon. Mr. Coles submitted the following amendment:

"The House of Assembly regret that civil disturbances took place in this Colony during the past year, but the House of Assembly respectfully submit that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the Law might have been averted by a more prompt and energetic use of the civil authority, when the disturbances first made their appearance, and thus the recourse to extraordinary measures, as referred to in your Excellency's Speech, might have been avoided."

After a very long debate, which was kept up till a very late hour, the question was put.

For the motion of amendment—Hons. Coles, Whelan, Thornton, Kelly, Warburton, Hensley; Messrs. Howlan, and Sinclair, 8.

Against it—Hons. James C. Pope, Kaye, Davies, Longworth, Solicitor General, Laird, Gray, McEachen, the Speaker, Messrs. Brecken, Haslam, Howat, Green, McLennan, Montgomery, Duncan and Ramsay—17.

Mr. Howat then addressed the Committee and said, that as neither the paragraph under debate nor the amendment submitted by Hon. Mr. Coles represented his views, he would submit the following amendment, which was seconded by the Hon Mr. Laird, viz:—

"That the House of Assembly regret the disturbances and troubles which occurred in this Colony in the past year; but the House, at the same time, are of opinion that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been set aside by a further recourse to the aid of the civil power at the disposal of the local authorities, before calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops.

"We are also of opinion that, before any money was applied towards providing Barrack accommodation for such troops, the consent of the Legislature should have been first obtained."

Hon. Mr. Hensley said that though he considered the crisis was the result of the want of energy on the part of the Government, yet if the hon. member (Mr. Howat) meant that no necessity existed for calling in the aid of the troops, he was not prepared to go to that extent.

Hon. Mr. Whelan asked the hon. member for Tryon if he wished to ignore the necessity of sending for troops when they were called in?

Mr. Howat, in reply, said he was of opinion that the Government were not warranted in sending for the troops without further testing the civil power at their command.

The question was then put on the amendment submitted by Mr. Howat:

For the motion—Hons. Mr. Laird, Coles, Thornton, Kelly, Warburton, Messrs. Howat, Howlan, Sinclair—8.

Against it—Hons. J. C. Pope, Kay, Davies, Longworth, Solicitor General, McEachen, the Speaker, Gray, Whelan, Hensley, Messrs. Brecken, Duncan, McLennan, Montgomery, Ramsay, Green, Haslam—17.

The paragraph in the address was then put and carried on the following division:—

Yeas—Hons. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Sol. General, the Speaker, Kaye, Davies, Gray, McEachen, Messrs. Duncan, Brecken, Haslam, McLennan, Montgomery, Ramsay, and Green—15.

Nays—Hons. Coles, Laird, Warburton, Whelan, Hensley, Thornton, Kelly, Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Howat—10.

After which progress was reported and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 12.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

When the paragraph in the Address, relating to the application of the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new ones, was read by the Chairman, another long debate ensued, during which it was urged by the Opposition, that so large an expenditure as that required for building the Barracks should not have been made without the consent of the Legislature; and that such permanent works should not have been erected until it was ascertained that the troops would be allowed to remain in the Colony; and in support of these views, Mr. Howlan submitted the following amendment to the paragraph under consideration:—

"The measure promised by your Excellency with respect to the sale of the old Barracks and the building of the new ones, will receive our careful attention, when all the papers on the subject shall be submitted to us. The House of Assembly cannot, however, but regret that so large an expenditure, as would appear to have been incurred for this permanent work, should have been undertaken without the consent of the Legislature."

The supporters of the Government on the contrary contended that, as it was necessary to call in the aid of troops, it was incumbent on the Government to provide suitable accommodations for them; that efforts were made to rent buildings, but none of suitable dimensions could be obtained; that the expenditure was in accordance with the principles which govern all constitutional Governments, when any emergency arises, rendering it necessary to appropriate money for the maintenance of law and order, and for the protection and defence of life and property; and that as some of the leading men of the Opposition supported the action of the Government, relative to calling in troops, they should concur with the necessity of providing them with suitable and proper accommodations.

At a late hour the question was put in Committee by the Chairman.

For the amendment.—Hons. Coles, Laird, Kelly, Thornton, Warburton, Whelan, Hensley; Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Sutherland—(10).

Against it—Hons. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Sol. General, the Speaker, Kaye, Davies, Gray, MacEachen; Messrs. Duncan, Brecken, Haslam, McLennan, Montgomery, Ramsay, and Green—(15).

Progress reported.—House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 13.

The House in Committe of the whole again resumed the consideration of the address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The paragraph relating to the recent purchase of Mr. Montgomery's estate in this Island, was read from the chair, to which the Hon. Mr. Warburton submitted the following amendment:—

"The House of Assembly rejoice to learn that your Excellency has concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the proprietors.

"The House of Assembly cheerfully recognise in this purchase another testimony to the usefulness and necessity of the Bill which has authorised such a measure, and which the Liberal Government in 1853 were happily enabled to place upon the statute book of the Colony."

A lengthy debate then followed, during which the merits and demerits of the various Bills which, from time to time have been enacted for the settlement of the Land Question, were reviewed and commented upon. Both sides of the House, however, concurred in the desirability of employing every legitimate measure having for its object the cancelling of the leasehold system. In the course of the debate the Hon. Col. Gray observed as his opinion, and ardent hope, that before the next Session of that House, a proposal for the purchase of the Cunard and Sullivan estates in this Colony, would be submitted for their consideration.

The Hon. the Leader of the Government observed, that it was the intention of the Government to ask the hon. House for an extension of the Land Purchase Bill with the view of purchasing the estates to which allusion had been made by the hon. Member for Belfast.

At the close of the discussion the paragraph under consideration was agreed to in Committee without a division. House adjourned.

SATURDAY, April 14.

The House in Committee resumed the consideration of the draft address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The paragraph in allusion to the loyalty and spirit manifested by the people of the neighbouring Provinces, relative to the threatened attack of the Fenians, and the necessity of making due preparations for any emergency that might arise, by taking into consideration the Laws which at present regulate the Militia and Volunteer forces of this Island, was read—

Hon. Mr. Coles expressed his readiness to support the Government in devising measures for the defence of the Country, and said that on a subject of such vital importance, he hoped both sides of the House would concur in the adoption of such measures as would tend to show that we were, as a people, prepared to devote our best energies and all our available means for the defence and maintenance of our British Institutions. Whatever our local differences might be, he said, on the subject of military defence he had no doubt hon. members on both sides of the House would be unanimous.

Hon. Col. Gray and other hon. members on the Government side of the House then expressed their satisfaction at what had fallen from the hon. leader of the Opposition, and trusted when the subject of military defence would be submitted to the consideration of that hon. house, that that unanimity so desirable on a subject of such vital importance, would characterise their deliberation.

Hon. Col. Gray then entered into a very lengthy exposition of our position in a military point of view, and spoke of the complications likely to arise from the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

A discussion then took place touching the conduct of the Government, in causing Special Constables to be sworn in to keep the peace in Charlottetown on St. Patrick's day, a procedure which, it was urged especially by Messrs. Conroy and Howlan, was not only uncalled for, but a slander on the character of the Irish Roman Catholics of the Colony.

It was stated in reply by the Hon. Sol. General and others that the construction sought to be put on the conduct of the Government on that point, was unjust. That no insult to any portion of the community was intended—that it would appear that in Canada and elsewhere Fenians made their boast that on St. Patrick's Day they would inaugurate their campaign. That Fenian sympathy prevailed to some extent was shown from the fact that Fenian buttons and ballads were exposed for sale in Charlottetown. That the Fenian organization was not recognised as being composed of Roman Catholics or Protestants, many of them being avowed infidels.

That the precautionary steps taken by the Government on St. Patrick's day were not intended to throw the slightest reflection on the loyalty and attachment of the Irish Catholics of this Island to British Institutions.

But that as it was feared that a sympathy for Fenianism might exist here, as in the other Colonies, to some extent, it was thought advisable to be prepared for any manifestation which might be attempted on behalf of Fenianism on that day.

The paragraph under disussion was then passed without a division, and the whole address reported agreed to without amendment.

The several amendments submitted in Committee were then put in their proper order to the vote, and negatived on the same divisions as when previously put in Committee.

After which the address was carried, ordered to be engrossed, and a Committee appointed to wait on His Excellency to know when he would be pleased to receive the same.

The House then adjoined till Monday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

A. MCNEILL, Reporter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

On reading the proclamation of H. W. the Mayor the other day respecting the sanitary measures to be adopted in this city, I could not help feeling some disappointment, inasmuch as it seemed to enjoin merely an external polishing, instead of a thorough radical cleansing of its foulness. It was to be a phantasm and sweet illusion, destined to gratify the eyes of the Lieut. Governor or others who might make a tour of inspection, "to keep the word of promise to the eye (not ear) but break it to trust," was to be, in short, a theatrical sell like that practised on Catherine of Russia by her ministers when she visited her southern dominions. At frequent interva's she saw flourishing towns and populous villages, bearing evident testimony to the fostering care and administrative sagacity of her advisers. But alas! both houses and villages consisted only of a frontage of painted canvass. The city was, it appeared, to have its face washed, and hair combed, without any attempt to unveil or disturb the impurities of its undergarments. We might white-wash the temples of Cloacina and Mephitis but not infringe on their mysteries; it would be revolutionary to carry reform into those time honored institutions, the cesspools that are coeval with our Penates. I recollect years ago visiting the cellars of a wine merchant in the city of London where the attendant pointed with pride to an extraordinary growth of cobwebs which hung down a foot or more from, and completely veiled the vaulted ceiling; they had been undisturbed for centuries, and were considered a proof, not only of the antiquity, but of the goodness of the cellar. The proprietor would have no more thought of removing them than a Chinese of cutting his nails.

Now, we have here no ivy mantled towers, no clapboard or shingle ruins teeming with historic associations; we are, perhaps, radicals or tenant leaguers in our politics, but we cling with a religious and tender conservatism to our dirt. It is cherished like the blue-mould of a Stilton cheese, or the mellow antiquity of a Meerschaum. We may boast "no pomp of heraldry, no pride of power," no escutcheons frowning o'er our gates, but we are no *uoci homines* when we can point with pride to the unbroken pedigree of our dust heaps. If we have no pictured ancestors on our walls, or fabulous vintages in our cellars,

"Nec Lestrygonia Bacchus in amphora
Languescit mihi;"

Nor does the juice of Bacchus lie
Mellowing for me in Grecian jars;

yet the venerable accumulation in our yards dates from "Consule Planco," that or that "annus urbis conditæ," when Sir ——— was governor and George the ——— was king. "Manet æternumque manebit."

Now, had not the medical gentlemen of this City shown, in their recent discussion, a profane tendency towards innovation, I believe that nothing short of an actual overflow of those cornucopias of ordure, such as happened at Paris two or three centuries ago, when the mouths of the sewers being gorged by a rise of the river, or other cause which I do not recollect, they vomited their noisome contents into the streets, flooding a great part of the town to the depth of a foot or more. Nothing short of this, I believe, or the late able report of our medical board, would have induced the inhabitants of this town to get rid of these dangerous and pestilential exerescences. The very able speeches made at that meeting have shown that the thing must be done. The question, therefore, only remains, how are we to do it? It had before struck me, and I was glad to find the same idea enunciated by Dr. Jenkins, that the only means by which it could be effectually performed would be by a Scavenger Company employing an organized corps of workmen. The Mayor may order people to remove all impurities, and fine them in default of it; but where are those to find the persons to do it, or how can aged people, women and children, who compose many households, or any persons, in fact, not possessing horse and cart, perform this themselves? The whole town will have to be cleansed at once; as far as external impurities go, the thing is easy; but as to the removal of the more offensive deposits, I have heard only of one man likely to undertake it. We shall all have to bid against each other for his services, the town will be mulcted, but he who is irreverently called Black Bill will become a millionaire. Future historians will insert his name in the golden book as Guglielmus Niger, and Ottawa king at arms trace his genealogy to the Black Prince or Roderick Dhu. I see, with the prophetic eye of Carmenta, Charlottetown sitting a future Venice on the waters.

"Fallor? an hi bene ingentia mœnia colles?"

and his lineage a race of Dukes or Doges.

Let me not lose time in forecasting the future, but return to the present, the desirability of forming a worshipful Company of Scavengers. Let us indoctrinate ourselves thoroughly with the value of the matter with which we have to deal. "Dirt," says Lord Brougham, who descants "*de omni re scibili*," is merely a misnomer, a word implying matter out of its proper place." This rude pile of material may form a Parthenon or a temple of Postum, these hideous and repulsive atoms may under a different combination form the beauty of the rose or the fragrance of the violet. The simple numerals 1 to 9 together with an 0, may express either the importunities of a dun, or the luxury of a legacy; they will foot up either your milk bill, or the national debt. All civilized nations have wished to get rid of excrementitious matters from their cities. Witness the wonderful sewer of ancient Rome, and the (*Cloaca maxima* or main drain where, as Pliny describes it, a cart highly loaded with hay might pass, or a vessel might navigate—look at the immense sewers of Paris undermining the whole of the town, (where they are now destroying the rats by electricity)—read of the enormous drainage works still progressing in London: but how few have made a full advantageous use of the materials so rejected? The wisest of them are those idiotic Chinese, whose extreme care in economizing everything convertible into manure has alone enabled them to maintain per square mile the largest population in the world. The Flemings of Belgium again, the model agriculturists of Europe, collect all these matters in tanks which they distribute with lavish hands. How far this system is carried out in other lands, France, Switzerland, or Germany, I am unable to say, as when I visited them I was young and had no agricultural tendencies; but as regards Italy where I resided near a quarter of a century, and for many years possessed a farm, I can speak with more precision. At Nice a poor house, rather than it should be allowed to remain untenanted, is often offered gratuitously to a poor family for the profits of the cesspool. In Tuscany, and I believe all over Italy, the vegetable gardens are in the vicinity of the towns universally fecundated with night soil, applied to the plants at a certain stage of their growth, and the effect of which in a few days is wonderful. You see the products in the gorgeous abundance, beauty and variety of the markets every where but at Genoa, where from its topographical position, not its own fault, the Apennines rising almost abruptly from the Mediterranean, and affording only small patches and terraces of land suitable for cultivation, it is but scantily blessed, and its own proverb describes it as sea without fish, market without herbs, mountains without wood, and (I am sorry to add) men without faith, and women without modesty. But having been discursive let me *digress*, Hibernice, into the main subject. The same ignominious material which fertilizes the garden is also most wonderful in its stimulation of cereal crops; we used to pay pretty dear for it at *Siena*. The very defective rotation of crops was, beans first in holes well manured, 2nd wheat, the land being ploughed for both these; 3rd, barley in land dug by the spade, and sown either in holes made by a hoe, together with a dash of that unmentionable though potent liquid, or combined together broadcast, I assure you the barley even in the poorest or sandiest soil was *a cushion*.

This was then our rotation where I lived, beans, wheat and barley. Within the narrow boundaries of my experience I should not have hesitated 20 years ago to have given you, like most superficial travellers, an opinion as to the general practice in Italy, supposing as I did that the rotation used in my vicinity was general. A Prussian nobleman who visited England some 30 or 40 years ago declared that after a fortnight's stay he felt competent to write a thoroughly trustworthy account of English laws, statistics, constitution, *usages de societe*, literature, &c., but after a month he began to doubt, and after a year's residence became convinced that it would require half a lifetime to accomplish the result. So I in the presumption of early ignorance thought myself qualified to give a general account, at least of Tuscany, the state where I lived, but being on a visit at a villa near Florence, while speaking to some of the people as to their system of farming, I was yet more astounded. Beans, wheat, barley, had seemed a pretty exhaustive system of cropping, but I found that owing, of course, to the great natural fertility of the valley of the Arno, assisted by the almost unlimited command of stable manure and night soil from the city, they actually grew wheat three years in succession, with only one intervening crop, beans generally, they told me, thus producing in a cycle of 20 years 15 crops of wheat. Go you, Islanders, and do likewise! Let it impress upon you the value of sewerage! Now I have rather, in sporting phrases, overrun the scent, I must hark back. Before speaking of the employment of this valuable matter, I ought in proper order to have enquired how we are to get it out of the city, for we must first catch our hare before we can cook it. It has been said of the Mantuan poet that he could even scatter dung with grace, *nihil tetigit quod non ornavit*, that is, "he touched nothing to which he did not lend a charm and an ornament." But how to extract abominations from an underground deposit with a bucket in an interesting manner, or treat of it decently either in prose or hexameters, is to me a fix. Madame ——, I forget her name, an eminent French dancing mistress, whilst teaching the minuet de la cour was always crying out *arrondissez vos bras*, and perhaps a strict attention to this may render the operation more graceful and less unpopular, thereby rendering the cost something less per cent. I am afraid Black Bill, however, will not attend to these elegancies.

The first clearance of these festering sores must be an offensive, tedious, and therefore costly operation. But it has struck me, and on speaking with a friend I found that he had exactly lighted on the same idea, that this process might be considerably simplified and facilitated. Dr. Jenkins has recommended what I had exactly thought myself, that those places of deposit should after clearance be filled up so as to admit only a small accumulation. He recommends a brick water proof tank, but would it not be still better to substitute a large moveable tub, as capacious as may be compatible with portability, that might be in a moment raised by blocks and tackle, and conveyed away on a truck. This should be provided with a close fitting cover, for though wine tasters purposely agitate the wine in the tumbler to develope as much as possible the aroma, our object is precisely the reverse; any ammonia that may escape is not only disagreeable but is a financial loss; though poison to us it is the vital essence of vegetation. The cask when covered may traverse the city without offence either to eyes or noses. There should be two, so that an empty one may be substituted on removal of the other.

We now come to the question which has given a title to one of Bulwer's works, "What will he do with it?" A scavenger Co. may either sell the material or utilize it themselves; in either case they must buy or rent some land adjacent to the city where it may be deposited and composted. I should then like to see rich and flourishing market gardens, such as adorn the suburbs of all European towns, and a well-filled greengrocers' store in the New Market House, and where every vegetable possible in this climate may be procurable on any day in the week. As the elm has always been married to the vine, both in the fields of Italy and the verses of her poets, so are there certain orthodox and inseparable associations of the dinner table. Barbarian he who would divorce turnips from boiled mutton, disturb the harmony of pork and cabbage, deny the affinities of beans and bacon, lamb and spinage, or take sorrel from a Parisian's fricandeau. Mere undisguised animal food is suggestive only of the shambles, recalls the gory banquet of Polyphemus, or carries you with Dante to that grim tower at Pisa, and harrowing meal of Ugolino; but give it but an edging of green, scatter the "Rapula lactugœ radices," and drape with cress, tender as in aesthetic Italy, the sliced Bologna, circled with green figs and bedded on vineleaves, and it becomes not pig, but poetry, an emanation not of the market, but of the academus; you have back ground, contrast of colour, relief, and chiaroscuro: and fancy, sublimated, flies off to gardens of Armida and bowers of the Hesperides.

But should we, under an invasion of Rinderpest or Trichitis, have to become vegetarians, to botanize "on the mountain's grassy side, or depend on the resources of our gardens, our "feast of herbs and fruits supplied, and water from the spring," would be so uninviting, that neither to the "gentle Hermit of the dale" nor to the ever dear Anglosina" could we proffer an invitation, especially if they had got over their sentimentalism and recovered their appetites.

The Spartan simplicity of unrelieved potatoes may charm Connaught or "tice Tipperary, but would not be considered an attractive menu in the Palais Raval. This, however, has been, for some months the only vegetable procurable, and that only occasionally, in this market. Is not this dreary to contemplate? not so much for the actual privation, but from the feeling that one has got to the "ultima Thule," the jumping off place of civilization. Surely a little enterprise, a sane employ of these matters which it is necessary to remove from our dwellings, may both remedy this deficiency and gladden the aspect of our neighbourhood. I was rude enough to plant Goldsmith's Hermit and his benumbed to fly off at a tangent a few lines back. I only wish to return to warn him that, even if content with our esculents, he should not madly approach our pumps, did he once taste, he would abjure the element, and take to "Mountain Dew" ever afterwards. Our whole soil is so impregnated with, (supply me the phrase,) what it should not be, that we are worse off than where, as Swift describes in his Bath Guide, the bath was in too close connection with the fountain. "While little Tabby" (was performing her ablutions) his words are more forcible than refined, "the ladies kept drinking it out of the pump,"—will not somebody set up a water cart, and sell something clean by the gallon?

I had wished to decant on some other points, to recommend to a Co., besides gardening, a Dairy Farm, stall-feeding—artificial green crops—system of Meehi, and of Lombardy, where the Parmesan cheese is made. I had also scribbled a page, fortunately lost, knocking a dead man on the head, and proving what has been proved already, the impossibility here of drainage. The hour is late, and I am unwilling to communicate my own drowsiness to the reader. If, in treating so repugnant a subject, where I have had to hold my pen with a pair of tongs, I have been muddy as my theme, and failed "ex (imo) dare fucem," if it was impossible to apostrophize and draw inspirations from a sewer, and say as the English poet to the Thames,

"Oh could I flow like thee, and make thy stream
My inspiration as it is my theme,
Though deep, yet clear, though gentle, yet not dull,
Strong without rage, without o'erflowing, full!"

yet I shall still be content if I draw forth happier observations from others, accepting with resignation the humble part of the grindstone which whets the steel while possessing no cutting edge itself.

More cautious he, perhaps, who follows to the letter the Horatian precept that a wise writer

"Quæ
"Desperat tractata nitescere posse relinquit."

You may render it—

"Those topics which he cannot polish into attractiveness—just lets alone."

Yours ploddingly,
J. F. NEWBERY.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, April 16, 1866.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

THE Colonial and American Mails were received here on Saturday morning. There was also an English Mail, with dates to the 31st ult. The news from Europe is not important. Considerable discussion still prevails in England with respect to the new Reform Bill; and Mr. Gladstone has stated that it is the intention of the Cabinet to test the stability of the Government on that question, and to accept Earl Grosvenor's amendment—to which we referred in our notice of the last English news, about a fortnight ago—as equivalent to a vote of censure on the Government.

The "difficulty" between Prussia and Austria with respect to the late Danish Duchies, has not yet been settled; but though war between the two Powers does not appear imminent at present, it is not at all improbable.

Fenianism in Ireland still prevails to some extent; and arrests of persons implicated in the conspiracy continue to take place.

We give below some extracts from our latest papers.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

WARLIKE DESPATCH OF THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

Prussia has forwarded a circular despatch to the minor German States, laying stress upon the insufficiency of an appeal to the Federal Diet to settle the present conflict. The despatch further points out the necessity of the various states taking up a definite position upon one side or the other in the struggle which the armaments of Austria seem to render more and more imminent. The note accuses Austria of having violated the Convention of Gastein and assumed a threatening attitude. It expresses doubts of the power of the confederate states to carry out their good intentions towards Prussia in the defective state of the Federal military organization, and points out the necessity which has arisen for introducing a reform of the present system. The despatch concludes as follows:—"It is urgent for Prussia to know if, and to what extent, she may rely upon assistance in case she should be attacked by Austria, or forced into war by unmistakeable menaces."

Private communications from Vienna assert that Austria has determined to put an end to the provisional state of affairs in the Duchies, and that, if necessary, she will propose that the question should be referred to an European Congress.

The *Independence Belge* publishes telegraphic advices from Berlin, according to which the prospects of the continuation of peace have again diminished. Count Von Bismark insists upon the annexation of the Duchies, and the alternative is thus placed before the King of war with Austria or the resignation of Count Von Bismark. It is believed that Austria will not be the first to declare war.

The *Zeidlerische Correspondenz* publishes an article representing the present state of the Austro-Prussian relations as serious. It considers that the crisis is far from diminishing, but is, on the contrary, becoming more dangerous. The article points out that as soon as Austria had armed, her financial position would compel her to hasten the attack, a circumstance which the Prussian Government is taking into serious consideration.

BRUSSELS, March 29.—The *Independence Belge* publishes telegraphic intelligence from Weimar, according to which the King of Prussia gave his consent, on Monday last, to certain military arrangements, which, although only of a preliminary nature, indicate that war is almost inevitable.

THE CAPE MAIL.

PLYMOUTH, March 23.—The mail steamship Briton arrived here this morning with the above mail. The war between the Free States and the Basutos exhibited little change. The Basutos had recently attacked the town of Bethlehem, but were repulsed by the Boers with some loss. The natives in the colony continue peaceable. The Governor had modified his demands for the deposition of the head men among the Tambookies. A committee has been formed to secure a proper representation of the colony at the Paris Exhibition of 1867. The sentence of excommunication on Dr. Colenso had been read in the cathedral at Pietermaritzburg on Jan. 7, and in the evening the dean and the Rev. Mr Robertson appeared in the chancel before the bishop entered, and desired all Christians to depart. No notice was taken of this, and the bishop continued to conduct the services in the cathedral, and the attendance had been as usual. The bishop had recently baptised a child, but the dean would not allow an entry being made in the register. The Supreme Court had decided that the register was private property.

THE FENIAN CONSPIRACY.

DISCOVERY OF MORE ARMS IN DUBLIN.

On Monday the police discovered, buried under the earthen floor of a room in a house in the course of building in Upper Rathmines, two wooden cases containing nine rifles having bayonets attached. One of the rifles is an American breech-loader; the others bear the Tower mark. Twelve workmen employed on the building were arrested and brought up at the police-court in the course of the day. Several of the men said they knew nothing about the concealment of the arms, and three of them had come to work there that day for the first time. One of the persons arrested, James Brophy, who was conducting the building of the house; he is a brother of Hugh Brophy who was convicted at the special commission.—The prisoners were remanded for a week.

CONCENTRATION OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.

A communication to the *Czas* from the banks of the Dniester says, that 60 battalions of infantry, 26 squadrons of cavalry, and 96 pieces of artillery, are *en echelon*, and within three days's march of the Austrian frontier. Moreover, 23 battalions of infantry, 20 squadrons of cavalry, and 140 cannon are concentrated near the railway station of Baita. These troops could enter Moldavia in three days by Ternopol. The district officers have received instructions to be prepared with the means of transport for the troops, in case of their entering the Danubian Principalities.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

THE only Parliamentary event of any importance since our last issue was the debate on the Address in answer to the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session. It commenced on Wednesday and did not terminate until Saturday evening—the House sitting until a late hour on two nights out of the four. The debate was pretty much like preceding ones on like occasions—namely, an attack by the Opposition on the Administration for their sins of omission and commission during the past year. It was