poral. We went together in front of his tent; I had lathered him, took him by the nose, and was just applying the razor, when a cannon ball came, and that was the last I saw of his head and my arm. Excuse me, doctor, for laughing so but I never saw such a thing before." This occurred during the siege of Fort Erie.

LIFE IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.—A story is told by Capt. Bracken, formerly one of the editors of the Indianapolis *Sentinel*, too good to be lost.

One of the scouts, going out through the woods on picket duty, accidently espied away up a dark ravine, a little log hut. Anticipating a hearty meal, he rode up to the house, and an old woman, with a face more like a pig's (the captain says nearly all the women look that way here), came out looking the picture of consternation. The soldier dismounted, and asked for something to eat.

"What! wittles?" exclaimed the horrible-looking creature. "Whar did you come from, and what be a sojer doin' here?"

"Well, I came from Indianapolis, and be after something to eat. Are there any Secesh in these parts?"

"Any what?"

"Secesh."

"Why, gracious, what's them?"

"Are you and your folks for the Union?"

"Why, sartin. That's the old man neow."

Just at this moment there came a gaunt-eyed, slimlivered, carniverous, yellow-skioned, mountain Virginian—no doubt one of the first families.

"Look heah," continued the old woman, "this 'ere sojer wants to know if you be Union."

The old fellow looked more astonished than the woman at the soldier.

In the course of conversation the soldier inquired what the old man thought of the war.

"What war?" exclaimed the old fellow; "the Revolution?"

"Yes, the rebellion we call it."

"Oh, why we gin the Britishers fits, didn't we?"

It was evident the old man knew nothing of the rebellion going on.

When asked if he heard the fight, the other day, only six miles from his home, he opened his eyes and said he heard it *thunderin'* mighty loud, but couldn't see no clouds, and didn't know what to make of it.

A FEMALE CANDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT.—At Tullamore (King's County) Quarter Sessions, last week, before Henry West, Q. C., chairman of the county, during the revision of the parliamentary voters' list for that division of the county, an application was made by a Mrs. Winters, to the effect that her name should be inserted upon the list as a voter of the King's County, under and by virtue of properties held by her under letters patent granted by the Crown to her ancestors. The chairman replied that he was acting under a particular statute, which only empowered him to place on the list of voters male persons, aged 21 years and upwards, and that Mrs. Winters, not belonging to that sex, was ineligible to successfully claim the elective franchise. To this Mrs Winters replied that women had served the office of High Sheriff with distinction and resolution; that women had commanded armies and managed State affairs; that women were liable to taxation and subject to the laws made by Parliament, and therefore they ought to have some participation in the legislation of the country: that this was the constitution and principle of the country, which was paramount to that of any Act of Parliament. She further added, that it was her intention to contest the representation of the county at the next election, and that she had no doubt but that she would be returned. The chairman declined to discuss the question, except in connection with the Act of Parliament under which he was acting, and which would be shown to her by the Clerk of the Peace, and he politely requested Mrs. Winters to cease interrupting the public business. The lady reluctantly complied.

A MODEL REPLY TO A CONSTITUENCY.—'Mortimer Collins' finds this in a newspaper of ninety years ago:—The following is an exact copy of a letter from Anthony Henley, Esq., the elder brother of the late Lord Chancellor, Lord Northingham, to a certain corporation in Hampshire:—'Gentlemen,—I received yours, and am surprised at your insolence in troubling me about the Excise; you know what I very well know, that I Bought you; and I know what. Perhaps you think I don't know, you are now selling yourselves to somebody Else; and I know what you don't know, that I am buying another Borough. May God's curse light on you all. May your houses be as Open and Common to all Excise Officers as they were to me when I stood for your Scoundere.l—Corporation.—Yours, Anthony Henley.'

FRENCH MANUFACTURE OF OPINION.—There is something revolting, to be sure, in the way in which these Boulevard theatres are made to serve as pulpits or lecture-rooms for the public! Let any one fancy, for instance, what has been done with the great Chinese piece "Pekin!" Whilst aiming at giving the Parisians a tolerably adequate notion of what the Chinese captial is like, it was also thought that it would be a pity to let slip the occasion of a mild hit at *la perfide Albion*, and so that unfortunate victim of duty so nobly performed—poor Bowlby—is absolutely made to "point a moral" by his untimely fate! You will never guess how this is managed. A Chinese very much addicted to opium eating, has the power of saving three persons from the cruelties of his countrymen; two he has saved, and then, thinking he has a right to his reward, he begins to indulge in his poisonous delight, and when he is appeased to to save Bowlby, he is in the seventh heaven of dreamy unconsciousness! This, the public is taught to regard as a just punishment, and for her crimes in promoting opium eating, Albion has to pay with the loss of one of her worthiest children! Such a way of instructing the "masses" may suit the French, and the Emperor appears to adopt it with considerable readiness; but it would be looked upon somewhat harshly by any other nation laying claim to a state of advanced civilization.

Nothing, if duly reflected upon, is more curious than the way in which the creation of sort of public opinion is made to stand for the real one, which is of course impossible. Public opinion, surprising from the genuine public, is naturally enough destroyed in France, but the Emperor being desirous of resting all he does upon what has the appearance of this "opinion," which he then by factitious means creates.

At this moment, for instance, the last new object is a Prussian Alliance, and to accomplish that, Louis Napoleon, who knows he has all Prussia against him, is busy founding a journal in Berlin, which under the defence of French gold, is to write up the balance with France! This plan was tried in another shape about eighteen months ago, but failed; a regular journalistic establishment was established at Strasbourg, journalists of all description (highly paid too,) were despatched to the seat of action, and a paper was printed in German, which was then made to flood all Germany, and which, after costing a mint of money, had to be given up, because no efforts, however great, could make it answer, and simply because public opinion, of all things in the world, will not be coerced, and will not serve to enthrone falsehood in the place of truth. The French Imperial organ which was to represent German public opinion was a failure, and so, probably, will the Berlin one be. But the fact of its being about to be attempted is worthy of note.—*Paris letter.*

INTERCHANGE OF COURTESIES.—We find the following extracts in letters from Port Royal of the 25th ult., published in the New York Journals. They show that the feeling between the British and American naval authorities is not quite so bad as some of our contemporaries represent:

"The British steam frigate Immortalite, from New York, arrived here yesterday. When Commodore Dupont learned she was off the bar, he at once despatched two pilots to bring her into port. She arrived here at about 10 o'clock A. M., under a full head of steam, and was taken to an anchorage off Bay Point. The customary salutes of 21 guns were exchanged between the Britisher and the flagship Wabash. The British Commander subsequently visited the Wabash, and was received with the highest honors. He also visited Hilton Head, was received in due form by Gen. Sherman, and conducted through the late rebel Fort Walker (now named Fort Welles, in honor of the Secretary of War.) There the British Commander was greeted with another salute, fired by a detachment of the Third Rhode Island Regiment. It is seen that the intercourse between Flag Officer Dupont and the British Commander, Captain Hancock, has been of the most satisfactory character: a perfect understanding exists between them in regard to the objects of the British cruiser's visit, which are exclusively confined to the protection of British subjects in peaceful circumstances.

VARIED PROCESSES FOR ARRIVING AT THE TRUTH.—Darmez, the assassin, who, in October last, made an attempt on the life of the King, is confined in the Conciergerie, and subjected to the prison discipline; but no preparations are as yet apparently made for his trial. The system enforced in such cases is this:—The prisoner is at first treated with the greatest indulgence, nothing that he desires is refused him; the chancellor and the grand referendary visit him, and the people about him are attentive to his wishes, and anxious to converse with him. This is called the process of kindness; and if it fails to work upon the culprit's gratitude, and produce the discovery of his plot or accomplices, recourse is then had to the process of reduction. He receives little or no nutriment, is frequently bled, and never allowed to go to sleep; his strength is sapped away by inches; and if, in this exhausted state, he makes no revelations, a third experiment is tried—the process of excitement. Wine and spirituous liquors are administered, *bon gre mal gre*; he is kept in a state of constant intoxication, in hopes that his incoherent replies may give some clue to his secret thoughts. Thus the physical powers are tortured and perverted to weaken the firmness of the moral.—*Private Correspondence of Thomas Raikes with the Duke of Wellington, &c.*

PRODIGIOUS SPEED OF AN ENGLISH PEDESTRIAN.—The race grounds of Hackney-wick were thronged yesterday to witness the contest between Edward Mills, of Hackney, the holder of the Six-miles Challenge Champion Belt, and John Brighton, of Norwich, (the challenger), the latter being also the four-miles champion. Mills, it will be remembered, is the only pedestrian who has defeated the Seneca Indian, Deerfoot, in a level race, when they contended for the same trophy; and as the two latter are again matched for £200, for eight miles, the lovers of this sport were much interested in the race, especially to witness the performance of Mills, who has again thrown down the gauntlet to such a star as the Indian has proved himself to be at a long distance. Brighton is celebrated for his speed, and at four miles has not yet had a competitor to wrest the palm from him. The race yesterday, up to a certain distance, would scarcely be believed by those unaccustomed to pedestrian matches, nor could the unmitiated have imagined that the human frame could be trained to run at the pace obtained by both of the men—namely, the first two miles at the rate of close upon 13 miles per hour. For the 6 miles the competitors had to make 41 circuits of the course. An official referee and time-keeper having been appointed, the signal to start, by word of mouth, was given, when Mills dashed to the front at a great rate, Brighton at his right shoulder; the latter passed his opponent before the second round, when Mills again shot ahead and made the pace, fast as it was, "still faster." Brighton, not to be denied, once more went in front, and finished the mile in 4 minutes and 44 seconds, amid loud cheers. On commencing the second mile Mills again went in front, and increased the astonishing speed, they were still going at, as if it were a race of only 600 yards instead of six miles; and so they continued for another half mile, when Brighton once more obtained the lead, but could not hold it long, for Mills, amid increasing cheers, almost flew past him, led by four yards at the 11th round, increased it to 12 yards in the 12th, and finished the two miles in 9 minutes 52 seconds; full 30 yards in front. By many it was here thought the race was over, but Brighton, who, evidently outpaced, was not to be shaken off without a severe struggle, gradually reduced the gap in each succeeding round up to the 18th, when he again ran close up to Mills, and at the end of three miles, accomplished in about 15 minutes, they were again shoulder to shoulder. Brighton then took the lead for two more rounds, and struggled manfully to maintain his advantage, but all in vain, for Mills again rushed away as if only going for a sprint race, in the 23d circuit. Brighton tried hard to live the pace, when nature gave way, and he was compelled to succumb, much exhausted, at the 26th round, through a swelling in his left side under the heart, Mills, at a much diminished speed, finishing the fourth mile in 26 minutes 45 seconds, and running the remainder of the distance at his leisure.

The style and speed Mills displayed on this occasion will make him a formidable opponent to the Seneca Indian when they meet, even at eight miles.

COURT OF JUDICATURE ON CRINOLINE.—The court being prepared for proceeding on the cause of the petticoat, I gave orders to bring in a criminal who was taken up as she went out of the puppet show about three nights ago, and was now standing in the street with a great concourse of people about her. Word was brought me that she had endeavoured twice or thrice to come in, but could not do it by reason of her petticoat, which was too large for the entrance of my house, though I had ordered both the folding doors to be thrown open for its reception. Upon this I desired the jury of matrons, who stood at my right hand, to inform themselves of her condition, and know whether there was any private reason why she might not make her appearance separate from her petticoat. This was managed with great discretion, and had such an effect that, upon the return of the verdict from the bench of matrons, I issued out an order forthwith that the criminal should be stripped of her incumbrances till she became little enough to enter my house. I had before given directions for an engine of several legs that could contract or open itself like the top of an umbrella, in order to place the petticoat upon it, by which means I might take a leisurely survey of it as it should appear in its proper dimensions. This was all done accordingly, and forthwith, upon the closing of the engine, the petticoat was brought into court. I then directed the machine to be set upon that table and dilated in such a manner as to show the garment in its utmost circumference, but my great hall was too narrow for the experiment, for before it was half unfolded it described so immoderate a circle that the lower part of it brushed upon my face as I sat in my chair of judicature. I then inquired for the person that belonged to the petticoat, and to my great surprise was directed to a very beautiful young damsel with so pretty a face and shape that I bid her come out of the crowd, and seated her upon a little crock at my left hand. "My pretty maid," said I, "do you own yourself to have been the inhabitant of the garment before us?" The girl I found had good sense, and told me with a smile that, notwithstanding it was her own petticoat, she should be very glad to see an example made of it, and that she wore it for no other reason but that she had a mind to look as big and burly as other persons of her quality; and that she had kept out of it as long as she could, and at if she began to appear little in the eyes of all her acquaintance, that if she laid it aside people would think she was not made like other women. I always give great allowances to the fair sex upon account of the fashion, and therefore was not displeased with the defence of my pretty criminal. I then ordered the vest which stood before us to be drawn up by a pully to the top of my great hall, and afterwards to be spread open by the engine it was placed upon in such a manner that it formed a very splendid and ample canopy over our heads, and covered the whole court of judicature with a kind of silken rotunda, in its form not unlike the cupola of St. Paul's. I entered upon the whole course with great satisfaction as I sat under the shadow of it.—*Isaac Bickerstaff in 'The Tatler.'*

CASE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.—A singular case of restoration after apparent death occurred on Wednesday at Albany, N. Y. A little daughter of Mrs. Wilson, residing on First St., after a sudden relapse succeeding a severe illness, apparently died. The body did not stiffen, but every other symptom of death was present. The remains were prepared for the grave when on Wednesday night the supposed dead child screamed, and immediately the functions of life were resumed. Heavy perspiration poured off the body in great quantities, and the pale, marble-like form assumed a healthy red appearance. When the "dead" child screamed, those present, except the mother, became greater alarmed, and ran out of the room. The mother rushed to the body, enclosed it in her arms, and removed it to a bed in the side room. The family physician was immediately sent for, who applied proper restoratives, and the child is now in a fair way of recovering.

LIFE IN THE SEA.—Brimful of life at its surface, the sea would be encumbered if that prodigious power of production was not kept somewhat in check by the antagonist power of destruction. Only imagine that every herring has from fifty to seventy thousand eggs? If every egg was to produce a herring, and every herring fifty thousand more, were there not an enormous destruction going on the ocean would very soon be solidified and putrified. The great cetacea drive them towards the shores, ever and anon diving into the ranks and swallowing up whole shoals. The whiting eat their fry; cod again devour the whiting. The cod has up to nine millions of eggs. No wonder that the fishery of this productive fish has created towns and colonies. But what would the power of man be opposed to such fecundity? He is assisted by others, among which the sturgeon itself is a very fecund fish. This devourer has itself fifteen thousand eggs. Another great devourer is not proportionately reproductive, and that is the shark.

PROMISED MARVELS IN 1862.—From France an offer has been received by the International Exhibition Committee, from one of that class of sanguine and amateur mechanicians who are always on the look-out for the discovery of perpetual motion. The applicant states that he has really discovered the long-sought treasure, and that he will exhibit the machine in motion during the whole time the Exhibition remains open. The same inventor also asks space to exhibit a flying machine, and this, too, he proposes to exhibit in actual motion. Startling, however, as are these novelties in mechanical engineering, they are by no means so important as the proposal which has been made by some practical English engineers of eminence in their profession to lay down a monster iron tube from the Marble-arch to the Exhibition building, through which passengers will be despatched by the pneumatic process. The difference between this mode of conveyance and that of an atmospheric railway is, that in the one case the passengers are conveyed over an exhausted tube, and in the other they are shot through it as in a gigantic pea-shooter. Taking their places at the Marble-arch, visitors would be delivered at the other end of the tube at Kensington in about two minutes.

SERFDOM AND EMANCIPATION IN RUSSIA.—There are among the Russian nobility some who possess from 70 000 to upward of 100,000 serfs. Count Scheremeteff is considered the richest nobleman in Russia. He possesses 120,000 serfs amongst whom are several whose wealth amounts to millions. His annual income is estimated at a million and a half of silver roubles, (£250,000) Every serf pays to his master from 10 to 15 roubles annually, so that the annual income of a possessor of 100,000 serfs cannot be less than £45,000, independent of the income he derives from forests, mills, fabrics, &c The total number of serfs now in Russia is upward of 23 000,000, and taking the value of each serf at only 300 roubles (£50) the loss sustained by the owners by the emancipation is certainly not less than £1,150,000,000, or as half as much again as the national debt of this country. Taking the interest at 5 per cent., the loss of annual income to the nobility cannot be less than £67,000,000, or more than double the interest we pay for the national debt.—*Once a Week.*

Correspondence.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

ABERDUMBEE WILHOCK, ESQR., TO THE TENANTRY OF P. E. ISLAND. GREETING.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-COLONISTS.—Although it is now some considerable time since I last addressed you, I beg to assure you, in the unaffected accents of pure sincerity, that it has been from no want of having your interests at heart, and that I have not been an idle or heedless spectator of the machinations of your proprietary rulers, whose abominations have become so outrageously notorious that I now feel it my duty to furnish them with "a Christmas Pie," that you may, during these festive times, witness their writhings and wriggings while striving to swallow and digest it. It is a common saying applied to "blacklegs" and such other wretched toadies as constitute the excuse for our Government, "give them scope enough and they will commit themselves," or, in plainer words, "give them rope enough and they will hang themselves." And so my friends I have been letting them alone for some time past, until they have hung themselves up so conspicuously before your gaze, that now, while they are so gibbeted, I feel it my bounden duty to call your attention to their misdeeds, so that you may be guarded for all time to come against such atrocious and villainous slavery as they have attempted to impose on you for their own greedy purposes and the interests of their relentless masters, the pretending proprietors, whom they fain would serve so faithfully at your expense; nay, at your utter annihilation. Their crimes of omission as well as of commission may be called legion, so that I find a difficulty at which to begin. You all know the necessity of good roads in order to enable you to cart your produce to market or a place of shipment, and I put the question fairly and honestly to each and all of you, did you ever, in the memory of the oldest of you, see such shocking bad roads as you have experienced this fall? I answer for you, *emphatically*, NO NEVER. I will next tell you the reason why, because that *thing* calling itself a Government is too [illegible] too selfish, too much intent on serving themselves and their masters the land claimants, the vampires who feed on the fruits of your hard labour; because their bad management has brought the Island almost to a state of bankruptcy, so that in order to keep W. H. Pope, Donald Currie, J. B. Cooper, John Arbuckle and such like small fry from want, and to enable them to write and print all manner of *lies and libels*, not only against *you*, but against all and every *honest man* in the Colony who sympathise with you, or wish to see you independent and freed from the intolerable proprietary yoke under which you have so long struggled. Yes, to such despicable purposes do they appropriate the money which should and ought to have been laid out on the roads and bridges, to keep them in passable or travelling condition to enable you to cart your produce to a mart where you could realize cash for it to satisfy the greedy agents, the Desloises, the Havilands, the Popes, the Yeos, the Palmers, and such like taskmasters. And let me further ask you, gentlemen, is it not a fact beyond contradiction, that notwithstanding such bad, yes almost impassable roads, low prices for produce and in many parts of the Island *no cash* to be had even at such low prices as prevailed, that you have not been so harrassed and coerced for rents for the last quarter of a century as you have been this fall and the past summer, by *your Proprietary Government?* Is it not the clearest possible evidence of their despondency? They know right well that their days of governing you are numbered, and like the unjust steward, they are striving to make friends by "the mammon of their iniquity." They know well that at the next general election you will have *the power*, and they too well know that you have *the will* also to place a Liberal Government in their room, who will not combine with the land usurpers to harrass and enslave you with burdens which you are neither *able nor willing* to bear any longer, and who will send the batch of idle vampires, the Popes, the Curries, the Coopers, the Arbuckles, &c., to work on the roads or earn an honest living, if such be possible, for those who have so long lived on the wages of iniquity. Yes, gentlemen, your Government proprietary faction, in anticipation of their doom at the next general election, have combined to have their "pound of flesh," and if possible, in the meantime, to coerce and intimidate you, in fact to so prostrate you that you will be unable to resist their trammels or fetters, which they are every day so busy in rivetting; they are vain enough, through their indefatigable exponent, W. H Pope, your arch enemy, the Government paid servant *at your expense*, to think, or at all events to hope, to so impoverish you by their harsh proceedings, as to unnerve you for the coming struggle at the general election; and, "to give the d——l his due," they are leaving nothing in their power undone to effect their diabolical purpose. The very fact of their having in their employ such men as Pope, Amos, Cooper, Currie, Arbuckle, &c., to bark at, vilify and blackguard you, is of itself proof positive—if such proof were wanted—of the "unholy alliance" of such characters, and how far you can depend on them, while not only their interests but *their very existence* (out of a penitentiary) depends on keeping you under the slavery of your pretended but very unjust, unreasonable and unbearable landlords. You have asked them for bread, and they have given you a stone. They promised you an adjustment of the land question; they prayed for and obtained a Commission; the Commissioners heard your complaints; they (the Government) hurried away the Commissioners lest they should "decide according to the evidence" which you placed under their notice. A *Spy* was sent on to entrap you *under false pretences;* a room for an office was given him in the Colonial Building, just immediately adjoining that occupied by W. H. Pope, the Colonial Secretary, who is paid at your expense for helping the *Spy* to furnish him with such *lies and stories* out of the *Islander* newspaper as he is in the habit of furnishing week after week, to try to lead you astray from demanding your just rights, while in the meantime the Havilands, the Yeos, the Popes, the Palmers, and their ready tools and understrappers, are relentlessly torturing you for that rent which ought to have been kept in abeyance until after the Land Commissioners' Award would be made public. "The right man was in the right place" when Whitman, the *Land Spy*, was placed under the unscrupulous instructions of W. H. Pope, the factotum of the Proprietary Government, a land agent himself. Of course the Government who keep him employed know his value, and encourage him, and aid and abet him in all his evil sayings and doings against the tenantry, and in favour of the land usurpers, the so-called proprietors. And yet, gentlemen, you have seen it published in the *Islander*, on the authority of this self same W. H. Pope, that this Land Spy, this Mr. Whitman, although under his (W. H. Pope's) special training in a room or office in the Colonial Building, where stationery, fuel and light were provided for him at the expense of the public treasury, was only known to *one* member of the Government!! But, gentlemen, as you or most of you are fully aware what credence there is to be given to Mr. Pope's assertions in such matters, I need scarcely give you my own opinion on this part of the subject. But supposing it possible (for argument sake) that *only one member of the Government* knew the Land Spy, we must naturally enough conclude, that none else but Colonel Gray can be *that* member, because it was Col. Gray who introduced the resolutions upon which the Land Commission was claimed or asked for, and can you suppose Col. Gray, *even though he be in bad company* among his Government colleagues, to be such a consummate hypocrite as to sustain, sanction or tolerate such an abominable fraud, such barefaced rascality on the tenantry, as to aid and abet the Land Spy, Whitman? Now, mind you, gentlemen, *at present* I do not accuse the gallant Colonel of being *that member* who was in the secret of the Whitman *Spy System*, and who acted the part of coadjutor to W. H. Pope, in helping to draw up a report in favour of the proprietors and against the tenantry, because I deem it unfair to accuse him of such downright deception without giving him the opportunity to disavow the act, and thereby placing himself above suspicion. And yet if Col. Gray be that high-minded chivalrous soldier, which I know some of you give him credit for, how can he remain in a Government, any one member of whom could be guilty of such base treachery towards the tenantry? Why should he not kick such a miscreant out of his company? While waiting an answer from *some one*, I avail myself of this opportunity of wishing you a happy Christmas, and have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,
ABERDUMBEE WILHOCK.

Wilhockville, December 23, 1861.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR—In the last No. of the *Monitor* the literary world was enriched with another effusion from the erratic mind of the *Monitor's* fledgeling; it was intended for a reply to 'Justus,' but only served the purpose of exhibiting to the admiring gaze of his unfortunate readers the fledgeling's feeble contortions under the rod of the *Examiner's* correspondent.

The fledgeling critic must possess a peculiarly sensitive organization, judging from the irritability he exhibits at the slightest opposition to the nonsensical critiques of the *Monitor*—the self-constituted Mentor of the Island press.

When 'Justus' first undertook the task of opposing the *Monitor's* farcical attempts at criticism, he did so with a full knowledge of the foul perfection attained in Billingsgate literature by that miserably conducted parody on a newspaper, but with this knowledge in view, he imagined that the *Monitor's* dormant sense of right and wrong—if any ever existed—would awaken to a sense of the injustice and falsity of the unconnected remarks which have appeared in the *Monitor* respecting Bagster's Progress; but the nonsensical rhodomontade that appeared in the last *Monitor* gave token that the dying ember of conscience which for years has cast a frightful ghastliness over the seraphic editorials of the *Monitor*, has expired in the futile endeavour to produce something ludicrous enough to amuse its yawning readers.

The characteristics of the *Monitor*—effrontery and egotism—are not wanting in any article emanating from such a despicable source; for instance, the *Monitor's* fledgeling alludes to a critique said to have been issued from the Island press. Surely he does not make allusion to the rustic productions styled "Mr. Bagster again," for, without a greater stretch of the imagination than *he* is capable of exercising, they cannot be called even sensible remarks, for no three consecutive sentences are connected in meaning; they bear unmistakeable evidence of being the effete composition of a country schoolmaster.

No adverse criticism has been issued from any provincial paper; there have been a few meaningless acerbities in an obscure Halifax paper, written by some gout-ridden penny-a-liner to vent his spleen, and to obtain notoriety by being noticed by respectable papers. In reference to the assertion that "'Justus' and Mr. C. B. Bagster are one and the same person," we beg to state that it is quite unfounded: Mr. Bagster was not aware of the existence of 'Justus' before his appearance in the *Examiner*. We would also remark that "fledgeling" is correctly spelled, and, when applied to the *Monitor's* fledgeling as a critic, is no misnomer.

JUSTUS

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., December 30, 1861.

OUR readers may remember that about the close of the late summer several public meetings were held in Prince and King's Counties, at which it was resolved to petition the Lieut. Governor for a dissolution of the House of Assembly before another Session was called, in order to give the people an opportunity of pronouncing their opinion in a constitutional manner respecting the wonderful Land Commission. We attended three of those meetings in the second district of King's County, and endeavoured to dissuade the electors from entertaining the project; but the feeling was everywhere very strong in favour of it. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee of the Central Liberal Society, as being considered the true exponent of Liberal principles in the Island. But that body was divided on the subject; and the President, Mr. Coles, warmly opposed the getting up of the petition. Still there was a very small majority in favour of it; but owing to the want of unanimity, nothing was ever afterwards done by the Committee or Society in reference to it. We deem it only right to make this explanation, as there may be some misapprehension in regard to the petitions which have been put in circulation, and as we are desirous of offering a few remarks that may account for the want of unanimity on this subject in the ranks of the Liberals.

In the first place, we thought and still think, that it would be a waste of time to address His Excellency Mr. Dundas, who appears to have surrendered himself thoroughly to the control of his advisers, asking him to do a thing which he could not do without their consent. It would be madness to suppose that the Executive Council would recommend a dissolution, even if seven-eighths of the whole population were to ask for it, so long as they have a large and servile majority in both branches of the Legislature, though they are well aware that the majority in the lower House was obtained by the foulest means; and their mode of cramming the Upper House was so disreputable that they have been ashamed to make known the correspondence with the Colonial Office on the subject. Besides, nearly all the principal office-holders depend for their very existence on the salaries attached to their respective employments; and their relatives and kinsmen in the Executive Council could not be expected to precipitate their downfall. Those officials know they have not the shadow of a chance of holding their places after a new Parliament shall meet,—indeed, they plainly admit that such is a melancholy fact for their consideration. Every day's continuance in office is, therefore, of some importance to such people.

In the next place, we were opposed to the getting up of a Petition for a dissolution, because we feel satisfied that event must or should take place in the summer of 1862—only a few months hence; and by that time, we expect that the Government will have thoroughly exposed the hollowness and insincerity of their policy regarding the Land Question, which one of their leaders said might be settled in eight months, but which is now farther from settlement than ever, although the Government have been dabbling with this question for a period of nearly three years. It has been said by the supporters of the party in power that they will not be content with four Sessions of the Legislature—the number usually allotted for the duration of our quadrennial parliaments—that they will not dissolve the House next Summer, but will hold a fifth session in the winter of 1862–63. Let them do so. Their greed of power will be only the more apparent, and their downfall the more certain. Such a shameless proceeding would make a difference of only a few months in point of time, and that difference would be all in favour of the Liberals.

Regarding the matter from a party point of view, we think it would be a misfortune, if, by a general election, the Liberals were placed in power at the present time. We know the debt of the Colony is enormous, and its trade is in a very languishing condition. Much time must elapse before any improvement would be perceptible in our financial affairs. It is not while the relations between Britain and the United States wear the present ominous aspect that that improvement can be hoped for. The dark cloud must pass from the western horizon before we can expect to bask again in the rays of a prosperous sun. Our Republican neighbours must patch up their present quarrel in some way—they must not only restore peace within their own borders, but they must establish a solid foundation of peace with all the world, before the busy marts of commerce can resume their wonted activity, and pour their golden showers into the public coffers. A party coming into power is always expected to do better than its predecessor, and impart considerable energy to the management of public affairs. This would not be an easy task at the present time. The decayed trade, and the overwhelming debt, without any present prospect of liquidation, would serve as a drag-chain on the Liberals, and soon render them nearly as unpopular as the party who had preceded them.

But the first and most important consideration that should render an accession to power undesirable now on the part of the Liberals, is— that the Tories should finish the work they commenced with a view to the settlement of the Land Question, or let sufficient time elapse to make it as plain as the sun at noon day that they have no desire or intention to settle the question. The Liberals are not covetous of the honour of solving the difficulties arising out of it. They would be very glad to see that bone of contention finally disposed of. If the settlement of this question were bequeathed to the Liberals, through the rashness or impatience of their supporters in petitioning for a dissolution, they would not only have immense trouble thrown upon their hands, but they would be charged with all the censure and responsibility attached to the non-settlement of the question. Supposing the Lieut. Governor were induced to comply with the prayer of a petition for a dissolution, the party in power would have a good rallying cry for the hustings. "We endeavoured," they would exclaim, "to settle the Land Question. We nearly accomplished that object—we had considerable influence with the proprietors—by means of that influence we could have procured a good arrangement for ameliorating the hardships of the tenantry,—but we were not allowed sufficient time to finish our work,—the Opposition interrupted our progress by the petitions circulated at their instance—and the Lieut. Governor showed his respect for the will of the people by responding to their prayer."

Now, we were desirous that the party in power should have no such excuse as this to lean upon. We are willing to let them have all the time which the law relating to the duration of Parliament allows. Their sincerity with regard to the Land Question will be put to a very severe test during the approaching Session, for upon that question their tenure of office depends. Before the Session expires they must produce the Report of the Commission, which they are so very anxious to keep back,—otherwise they will cover themselves with infamy. We are fully prepared to see the Government party in the House resorting to all sorts of tricks and devices to postpone a settlement of our only great question. We find it announced that they purpose to introduce a Bill to regulate the details of an arbitration between landlord and tenant under the award; and we have no doubt they will make the Bill extravagantly liberal in its provisions towards the tenantry. They know very well that such a Bill would not receive the royal allowance. As Mr. Howe very truly said, in giving his exposition of the Award—the principles of an arbitration, and the mode of conducting it, are well understood in every community, and require no statute to define them. And if the Legislature here should pass an Act that would be likely to give the smallest advantage to the tenantry over the proprietors, we are quite sure that the latter body have influence enough to procure the disallowance of the Act; but if they never troubled themselves about it, we are confident the Colonial Minister would strangle it without hesitation. The object of passing such a Bill, therefore, will be only to gain time, and keep the Land Question unsettled. The people will be on their guard against all trickery of this kind; and as this trickery will certainly be resorted to, our friends will understand why we are anxious that the ensuing session should be held under the auspices of the party now in power.

There is another reason why we were, and are, not anxious for a dissolution of the House before the usual and proper time. *We want to see the Report of the* SPY, who was subsidised by our Government in connection with the Land Commission. We all know that the Government basely connived at the Spy system introduced amongst us for the first time in our lives—that the dirty work was paid for by our money, and that the Secretary of the Spy, Mr Job Bevan, was employed, at our expense, for several months after his principal left the Island, in transcribing official documents for him. We know, moreover, that the Spy circulated, while here, the most outrageous falsehoods in relation to his mission; and we may, therefore, fairly assume that the man who would engage in such a dishonourable business, and readily resort to falsehood to cover his infamy, would not scruple to fill his reports with the grossest misrepresentation. Mr. Howe informed us that the documents prepared by the Spy were attached as an appendix to the award, and that they would be all communicated to the public. If the Government will ever submit the award to the Legislature, they cannot withhold the appendix. Should they attempt to suppress a part or the whole, it will be a tacit acknowledgment that it is too bad to meet the public eye. In any case, they must be held responsible for it, for they have used the people's money to pay for the services of the Spy, and therefore they cannot plead ignorance in reference to his dishonourable mission. There is no free country in the world where the hateful Spy system could be introduced with impunity, and maintained at the public expense.

The approaching Session will determine whether this is a free country or not—whether the public treasury should be used to support spies, informers and impostors; and whether the people will tolerate a Government that will keep such vile agents in their pay. The duplicity of the Government in regard to the Land Question, and the foul agencies they have employed to aid that duplicity—are sufficient to sink a dozen paltry Cabinets like ours. We want only time enough for the exposure of the duplicity. But the pear is nearly ripe—rottenness rapidly approaches, and it will soon fall without any effort on our part.

Let us entreat, therefore, the friends of the Liberal Party not to forward to the Lieut. Governor the petitions for a dissolution. He has not the power, even if he had the will, to comply with their prayer. But supposing he had both, we don't want a dissolution. We shall be better prepared for it next summer, or even next winter, than we are now. The Government have a few yards of rope still left. Let them get to the end of it, and let us have the satisfaction of witnessing their strangulation without acting the part of their executioners.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE LAND COMMISSION.

THE Meeting which was advertised to be held at Marshfield, St. Peter's Road, appears to have been a very poor affair, although the place appointed for it was the very centre of Toryism, and although a member of the Government and some of their prominent supporters honoured the occasion by their presence. A friend who was there has furnished us with the following account of it.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—A public meeting was held at the School house, at McLaughlin's bridge on Thursday last; but on account of a storm the day before, not more than about fifty persons assembled. The Hon. John Longworth and George Beer, Esq., were in attendance on behalf of the Government; and the worthy member, the Hon. Mr. Coles, was the only Liberal from Town. Mr. Longworth and Mr. Beer contended that the arbitration clause in the award of the Land Commission could be made by the Legislature to work beneficially for the tenantry. Mr. Coles maintained that no special legislation on this subject would be sanctioned by the Home Government which would have the effect of favouring either the tenant or landlord; but that the usual method of arbitration, such as was recommended by the Commissioners, would have to be carried out.

Messrs. Longworth and Beer also contended that as soon as a tenant became a purchaser under the Award, and paid the first instalment, his rent would cease, and he would only have to pay the interest on the balance of his purchase money. Mr. Coles showed, by reference to Col. Gray's resolutions and Mr. Longworth's speech, when the subject of the Commission was debated in the House, that the Government did not propose that the rent should cease, as was the case on the Worrell and Selkirk estates; but that the tenant was to continue paying his rent, and would get credit for the interest on his instalments. Mr. Coles further showed, by reference to Mr. Howe's explanation of the Award, that the recommendation of the Commissioners, in respect to this point, was based upon the resolutions above referred to; and that the tenant could not get his deed until the whole purchase money would be paid: thus forcing the tenant, if the twenty years' purchase was the amount agreed upon, to pay a sum exceeding one hundred pounds more for his 100 acres, than was required from any settler on the Worrell or Selkirk estate. This point was reluctantly yielded to Mr. Coles.—A full explanation touching the Loan clause was also given by the latter gentleman. He said that if the Loan were obtained, no more money should be drawn at a time than was requisite to pay for land actually in the hands of the Government, and