

## THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1848.

## LAND TAX.

At the suggestion of the Imperial Government, and, we believe, in pursuance of their own inclinations, arising from a full conviction of the urgent necessity which exists, not only for the maintenance but the increase of our revenue—and rightly judging that the land is the only purely legitimate source from which at present such maintenance or increase can be derived—the House of Assembly have had under their consideration the propriety of renewing the present Land Assessment Act, which will expire at the close of the next Session of the Legislature, and even of increasing the imposition upon cultivated as well as wilderness lands; although the special objects for which the Tax was first imposed have been well and happily accomplished.

This direct Tax—although, beyond dispute, the least objectionable one which could have been imposed for the accomplishment of any public benefit or useful design—was not, it must be confessed, even at the beginning, looked forward to with any very agreeable anticipations, either by the Tenantry or the Proprietors; nor has experience, we apprehend, rendered it any way less disagreeable or more palatable, than they expected it would prove. It was a bitter pill at the first, and so—without losing any thing of its nauseous or disagreeable flavour—it will remain, although it should continue to be prescribed by state physicians and received, as an *alterative*, by a reluctant *patient* people, until the last moment of the full term and period of a lease of yesterday's creation for 999 years—(we forget that such longevous instruments are now becoming as rare and wonderful as the skeletons of antediluvian mammoths.)

The vexatious, distressing, and often ruinous mode in which the Quit Rent had been collected, up to the time of the imposition of the Land Tax; and the certainty that they should thereby, for a time, be freed from that most harassing exaction, was, with the Tenantry and proprietors also, the most persuasive and seductive reason—a reason far, far beyond the consideration of any necessity to provide for erecting a Government House, a Building for an Academy, a Colonial Building, or even Jails—to induce them to admit the propriety and necessity of submitting to the less laxative course of Land Assessment. Of two evils they thought best to choose the least.

And, at this moment, the most effective and convincing argument which can be advanced in favour of a continuance of the Land Tax, either in addressing the Tenantry or the Proprietors, is simply this: If you refuse to submit to a longer continuance of the Land Assessment course, Her Majesty will certainly insist upon your being again subjected to that of the Quit Rent.

So much we have advanced merely to predispose our friends to grant us a patient perusal of a few further brief remarks, which we have yet to lay before them, upon the subject of the Land Assessment Bill: remarks which we know will not, taken as a whole, be agreeable to the entire circle of those whom we are privileged to call "our friends;" but yet which we are certain will—as different interests and perceptions shall bias and direct to selection—meet with partial acceptance and approval by them all.

We are ourselves fully convinced, and by various considerations, of the very urgent, yea the absolute necessity which at present exists not only for the continuance, but the augmentation of the Land Assessment—although very far from approving of the mode in which one portion of it will be levied: we mean that upon improved or cultivated lands.

Besides the one great compulsory reason which we have already stated, there are two others which, to every mind gifted with any degree of prescience, must, we think, appear equally potential in favour of a Land Tax. These, of which, however, our available space will, at this time, scarcely allow us to take greater notice than by name—are the momentous importance of reducing our Public Debt, of *crushing the crocodile in the egg*; and the equally, if not still more needful and important one, of compelling a settlement of the wilderness lands, of dispossessing the bear, the loup-cervier and the wild cat—of fulfilling the commandment of God, to "replenish the earth and subdue it."

With respect to the first of these evils, we will now only further observe, that debts are like cancers; they are both incurable, except by complete annihilation; and, if left to increase—as they certainly will, without deracination or excision—they will both prove fatal to the parties who endure them.

In reference to the second, we beg leave to remind our readers—that, without a population nearly approaching to the amount which, under proper cultivation, it would be capable of supporting, the opening up and the improving of the natural resources of a country—especially of an agricultural one—are no more to be hoped and looked for than the light and glory of the day in the absence of the Sun. To these considerations we will, under this head, merely add two pertinent observations, for which we are indebted to one or the other of two learned, philosophic, and poetical Doctors—Goldsmith or Conroy—first, "a bold peasantry" should ever be "their country's pride," as in fact they are its health and strength; and secondly, that as England has never been so happy as

"When ev'ry rood of ground maintained its man,"

we need never expect to see this Island that paradisiacal abode it might be made until its state, with respect to population and culture, become something like that to which our philanthropic and philoprogenitive doctor and poet alludes in the line we have above quoted.

We shall return to this subject in a future No.

**ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE.**—A man named Patrick Brogan, coming to town on Saturday last, with a load of wood, from Millcove, where he lived, fell off his sleigh, which immediately passed over his body, and so injured him that he survived but a very short time.

## Colonial and American News.

The Colonial and American Mails reached town on Friday night. We take the following paragraphs from our files.

**A DREADFUL SHIPWRECK** occurred at the entrance of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, at an early hour on Saturday morning the 4th instant.

The ship *Omega*, 1277 tons, Capt. Garrick, of and from Liverpool, sailed for New York on the 16th January last, with a general cargo and 315 passengers. She had fine weather the first fortnight, and afterwards encountered very heavy gales, and upon her reaching the southern end of the Banks, she lost her fore-yard, main-topmast, rudder, and all her sails. She had been thus left at the mercy of the waves for a week, when she was fallen in with by the barque *Aurora*, bound for St. John N. B., which took off half the passengers, and would have taken the whole, had not a gale sprung up and separated the vessels. In returning from carrying the passengers, the *Omega* lost pinnace, second mate and four hands.

On the 11th Feb. fell in with the brig *Barbara*, bound to Cork, which had taken off all but 30 of the crew and passengers, (which 30 included the captain and first mate,) when as in the former instance, a heavy gale coming on, the *Barbara* was compelled to part company with the *Omega*, which latter vessel is supposed to have gone down that night.

The *Barbara* afterwards bore away for Newfoundland, but in doing so lost two boats; they attempted to reach St. John's, and mistaking the land, the vessel drifted into the cove, and on account of the heavy surf, struck a cliff and stove a hole in her bow; 35 individuals managed to reach the shore, and in about five minutes after, the *Barbara* fell over and went down, carrying with her about 115 souls.

The *Aurora* arrived at this port to-day, with 73 of the passengers rescued from the *Omega* having landed 33 others at Canso; and the remainder, about, 60, have died on the passage since she received them. Many of the survivors are suffering from sickness. During the last 17 days the allowance of food has been limited to 2 1-2 ounces of bread, and a wine-glass of water each day to every one on board.—*Halifax Recorder*.

A sealing expedition, consisting of 103 vessels, has been despatched from St. John's and the outports, giving employment to 3,541 men. At some of the outports the people are in a starving state.

**FIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—On the 16th inst., while pending a call of yeas and nays on a motion for adjournment, the hon. Geo. W. Jones, of Tennessee, accused the hon. Hugh A. Harralson, of Georgia, of double dealing by voting for an adjournment, *vive voce*, and against it when the yeas and nays were called for. Mr. Harralson denied the charge, when Mr. Jones called him a liar; they then clinched each other, and made several savage passes at one another across the desk, knocking it down in their fight, neither

however falling. It is said that Mr. Harralson struck first. He apologised to the House, which on motion attempted to adjourn, without success, the motion being negatived. Mr. Jacob Thomson, of Mississippi, offered a resolution that a select committee be appointed to investigate the subject, and to determine what action was necessary to maintain the dignity of the House. Mr. McClane, of Maryland, rose and said, by the request of both parties, he was authorized to apologize to the House for each, stating also that each had mutually apologized to the other, and had become reconciled. Mr. Jones then extended his hand to Mr. Harralson, which the latter accepted, and they again recognized each other as friends, amidst the applause of members witnessing the scene.

**IMPORTANT FROM CANTON.**—An arrival at New York from Canton direct, brings the particulars of the massacre of six Englishmen by the Chinese. Sir John Davis, governor of Hong Kong, had arrived at Canton, and demanded redress, which was refused. A consultation of officers had partly concluded to blockade Canton, but the naval force was found insufficient, and it was feared matters would terminate in war.

## GRAIN SHOW AT GEORGETOWN.

The Grain Show was not as numerously attended as on former occasions, which is to be attributed to the state of the roads from the late snow storms. The Judges—Messrs. Thomas Clow, Donald Campbell, and William Sergeant—awarded Premiums to the following persons:

## WHEAT:

John Pool, Lot 59, first prize, weight 61½ lbs.  
Alexander Robertson, Brudenell 2d do. do. 61½ lbs.

## BARLEY:

John Pool, Lot 59, 1st do. do. 52½ lbs.  
Josepe Lane, County Line, 2d do. do. 51½ lbs.

## BLACK OATS:

John Dalziel, Lot 63, 1st do. do. 39½ lbs.  
Joseph Wightman, 2d do. do. 38 lbs.

## RED CLOVER SEED:

Thomas Fisher, Lot 61, 1st do.  
Roger D. Westaway, Lot 59, 2d do.

## TIMOTHY SEED:

George Aitken, sen., Lot 59, 1st do.  
Duncan Stewart, Farmer, Brudenell, 2d do.

EDWARD THORNTON, Secretary.

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—Last Monday evening, Dr. Tremain delivered his second Lecture on Chemistry, to a very crowded audience. Want of space prevents our giving a more extended notice of this Lecture, which met with such general approbation.

On Wednesday evening, 16th inst. Mr. John MacKay delivered to the inhabitants of St. Margaret's an interesting and instructive Lecture on "Lectures—their Uses and Influences on Society."—*Com.*

## DIED

At Bay Fortune, on the 15th instant, SUSANNA, wife of Mr. William Norton, and eldest daughter of William Underhay, Esq.

At St. Eleanor's, on Tuesday the 7th inst., in the 36th year of her age, Mary, relict of the late Mr. W. Craswell, sen.

At the Lunatic Asylum, yesterday morning, Patrick Carrigan, aged 57, a native of Monaghan, Ireland.

At the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. John Roper, Charlottetown Royalty, on Monday, 13th inst., Mr. John Peter Crammer, in the 91st year of his age. He was an American Loyalist, and emigrated to this Island about 60 years ago.

On the 27th ult., at Dog River, Lot 31, after a very painful and protracted illness, which he bore with Christian fortitude and resignation, Mr. Donald McNeill, Shipwright, aged 61 years.

At Tryon, on the 21st ult., Mrs Peter Purdy, in the 68th year of her age.

At Georgetown, on Wednesday the 1st of March, universally regretted, Ellen F. Macdonald, aged 20 years, a native of Picton, N. S., eldest daughter of Mr. John Macdonald, Shoemaker, after four days severe suffering from trismus, or lock-jaw, brought on by a laceration of the foot, produced by the puncture of a nail.

At St. Peter's Bay, on the 10th ult. after a short illness, Mr. John MacKay, in his 76th year. He was an old and respectable inhabitant of that settlement, having emigrated to this Island in 1803.

At Charlottetown, on Friday morning last, after an illness of a few days, Frederick J. M. Collard, Esq., Reporter in the House of Assembly for the *Islander* and *Gazette*, and Editor of those papers.

## By H. W. Lobban.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF RUM, BRANDY, GIN TEA, SOAP, SUGAR, and GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ON TUESDAY the 4th APRIL next, commencing at 11 o'clock, forenoon, at the store of JOHN F. CLARK & Co., Great George Street, in Charlottetown.

Persons residing both in Town and Country, are particularly requested to give their attention to this important Sale, the articles, being a consignment from Halifax, will be sold in quantities to suit purchasers, with a credit of Three Months upon all sums over Ten Pounds; a discount of 2½ per cent. on all sums paid down over that amount.

N. B.—Donna forget TUESDAY, 4th APRIL. M. 27

## SALADIN.

THIS entire thorough bred Horse, now 6 years old, will stand for the season, commencing on the 21st April, at Spring-Park Stables, on Fridays, Saturdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week, and at the Stables, Upton, near Poplar Island Bridge, on Mondays and Thursdays.

TERMS—Cash, L1 15s each mare; and good notes of hand, payable in October, L2.

Good accommodation, at moderate charges, may be had for mares at Upton, the residence of the owner.

STEPHEN RICE,

(All the papers.)

Upton, 27th March, 1848.