

hood, attempted to be palmed off upon the public, viz., that the majority of the Assembly have sold the interests of the Tenantry, and dare not interfere between them and their Landlords.

Here is the Despatch referred to:—

Copy.] DOWNING STREET,  
12th February, 1851.

Sir;

On your proceeding to assume the Government of Prince Edward Island, I am particularly anxious to direct your attention to a question which perhaps affects more than any other the political and social well being of its community.

It appears to me of the highest importance that some satisfactory arrangement of it should now take place, when the inhabitants of the Island are soon about to exercise a still larger share of controul over the public affairs, than they have hitherto enjoyed.

2. I allude to the subject of the Landed Tenures. Without going into detail, it is sufficient for me to remind you that repeated applications have been made at different times to Her Majesty's Government to consent to measures to deprive the Proprietors under the original grants of their Estates, on the ground of their having escheated to the Crown by reason of the non-fulfilment of conditions. These applications have been resisted on grounds with which the correspondence between the successive Secretaries of State and Lieutenant Governors of Prince Edward Island, especially since the year 1832, will render you sufficiently familiar. It is only my purpose now to state that Her Majesty's Government feel themselves bound to adhere to the decisions so repeatedly adopted by my predecessors in this matter, and to state that both on the grounds of justice to the Landed Proprietors, and of the permanent interests of the community of Prince Island, they regard such a measure as impracticable; nor on the other hand could they consent to entertain any measure such as was occasionally suggested, for buying up and extinguishing the rights of Proprietors, or any portion of them, at an expense to the Imperial Treasury.

3. The subsisting right of parties cannot, therefore, be altered in any other manner than by that of equitable adjustment, and while the law continues as at present, it is your duty to enforce obedience to it by the firm exercise of the authority entrusted to you, and by the employment, if necessary, of the Military Force at your command. Should any extreme case occur, you may even apply to Sir John Harvey for an additional force to put down any attempts at resistance to the Law.

4. But while thus maintaining the Law, you will also use all the influence which you may possess to induce the owners of Land, and their Tenants, to come to an amicable arrangement with each other; and give your best assistance with a view to passing any Legislative measures which may be required to complete such arrangement. But you will not fail to recollect, and to impress upon the Legislature, the necessity of abstaining from the introduction into such Laws, of any provision which may infringe on the rights of property.

5. You will, I trust, experience no difficulty in convincing both the Legislature and the people of the Colony, that a strict respect to those rights is required, not by justice only, but also a regard for their own true interests. It is obvious that an influx of Capital and Settlers, by tending to raise the value of property, would be most beneficial to the Colony, and to all classes of its inhabitants. Prince Edward Island, possessed as it is of great natural advantages, which are becoming better known in this country than formerly, is likely, at no distant time, to attract both Emigrants and Capital, if the policy adopted by the Legislature is not such as to discourage them. But nothing would tend more to this unfortunate result, than the sense of insecurity which must infallibly be created by an attempt of the Legislature to pass Laws bearing unjustly on the owners of Landed Property; even if the attempt were frustrated by the refusal of Her Majesty's allowance of it,

which it would be the duty of Government to advise Her to withhold in such a case.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
(Signed) GREY.  
His Excellency  
Sir Alex. Bannerman, Knight.

THE TENANT LEAGUE.

We publish on another page, by particular request, the Report of the Committee of the Tenant League of this Island;—our doing so, however, must not be regarded as an expression of our approval of, or concurrence in, the principles of that Body. But though we have not adopted the views of the Leaguers, we are not prepared to say that those views are deserving of that sweeping condemnation, with which, in some instances, they have been visited. If we have any decided objection to the movement of the Tenant League, it is this—that they are premature in urging principles, in regard to which there is much dread and misconception, at a time when the Legislature are disposed to adopt any feasible plan that can be devised for the amelioration of the Tenant's condition. Two very important measures have, during the present session, engaged the attention of the Legislature, either of which, if carried into law, as we have no doubt they will be, will afford immense relief to the Tenantry; and our advice to the League would be, to suspend their operations, until the fate of these, and other measures to be submitted, shall be decided.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

The measures of greatest public moment which have engaged the attention of the Legislature during the past week, are, first: A Bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Coles to authorize the Government to obtain a Loan of £10,000 at 5 per cent. interest, to pay off the Warrants now afloat, having 6 per cent. interest, and to secure the payment of the Interest on Warrants now issued and to be issued: the further issue to be at an annual interest of 5 per cent., instead of 6, as hitherto. This Bill has passed the Assembly, and is now before the Legislative Council. The second is a Bill relating to the payment of Rents, also introduced by the Hon. Mr. Coles. The object of this Bill is to protect Tenants from any arbitrary or unjust exaction, on the part of their Landlords; such as demanding and exacting payment of Rents reserved in Sterling at 50 per cent. advance in currency, instead of one-ninth. This Bill has also passed the House of Assembly, and is now before the Legislative Council. The third is a Bill, also introduced by the Hon. Mr. Coles, to provide salaries for the Controllers of Customs and Navigation Laws, appointed or to be appointed at the various Ports in this Island. The object of this Bill is the extending of the privilege of Free Ports to every District in the colony, possessing a Harbour sufficiently commodious for vessels engaged in the export trade—that farmers, when exporting their produce, might have it in their power to do so in foreign bottoms, at the Ports lying nearest to them. This Bill has likewise passed the House of Assembly, and is now before the Council.

The third is a Bill for the encouragement of the Cod and Mackerel Fisheries, introduced by Mr. Montgomery. The

encouragement held out by this Bill is a Bounty of 12s. 6d. per ton, upon all registered vessels, fitted out for the prosecution of the Cod and Mackerel Fisheries; and three Premiums,—the first £40 on the catch of not less than 150 barrels of Mackerel; the second £30, on the catch of the next greatest number of barrels; and the third £20 on the next greatest number. This Bill has passed the lower House.

The fourth is the Barrister's Bill, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Whelan, the object of which is to open the Courts of this Island to the admission of Barristers and Attorneys from the other Provinces, who may seek such admission, provided the Courts of those Provinces are opened to the admission of Barristers and Attorneys from this Island; and the Bill further provides, that any person possessing the Elective Franchise in this Island shall be privileged to enter the Courts, and plead and reason for others as well as for themselves. This Bill likewise passed the House of Assembly; but on being sent to the Legislative Council, it received a very different reception from the gentlemen of the long robe in that end of the Building, who, on some frivolous pretence or other, rejected the Bill. We could hardly believe them to be so illiberal, and apparently so much in dread of colonial competition.

The fifth is the Tenant's Rights Bill, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Coles, the object of which is to provide equitable compensation for improvements, to Tenants, who may be ejected from their Farms, when those improvements may exceed the amount of their arrears of rent.

The sixth is a Bill to impose an additional assessment of one farthing per acre upon all freehold Lands over 500 acres held by one individual; and the object of the Bill is to cause the Proprietors to contribute out of the annual proceeds of their estates towards the payment of the Civil List of the colony.

Another Bill, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Coles, during the past week, and agreed to by the Assembly, created great commotion and uneasiness amongst the Obstructives of Charlottetown. This is a Bill to convert the Old Court House to the purposes of a Flour Market and Post Office, for which it is extremely well adapted,—and if applied only to the latter purpose, the public would be greatly inconvenienced, as the Post Office would then be in the centre of the town, and the expense of rent would be saved to the Revenue. A Town Meeting was held on Saturday last, and after a great deal of violent debating, and abuse of the Assembly by some of the leading Obstructives, and abuse of Mr. Coles in particular—a Petition was presented by Mr. Palmer, addressed to the Legislative Council, praying that House to refuse their assent to the Bill. A counter Petition has been set on foot, praying the Legislative Council to disregard the first Petition, and we understand that one document has received about as many signatures as the other. The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands.

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—On Tuesday last, the 6th instant, Mr. Arthur Agassiz, Elliot River, went down a Well on his premises, by means of a rope, and a stick tied in the centre, for the purpose of getting up a Bucket, and while there, was suddenly seized with a fit—to which he was subject—and fell into the water, then

seven and a half feet deep, and before his servants, who were at the mouth of the Well, could obtain assistance, he perished. Mr. Agassiz was a native of Exeter, England, and, with his brother, came to this Island in the Spring of 1850, and purchased a beautiful property of Mr. Simpson, Elliot River, where he was residing at the time of the melancholy accident.

OBITUARY NOTICE.—On Monday the 5th inst., the mortal remains of the late Mr. William R. Dingwell, only son of Joseph Dingwell, Esq., of Little River, (Bay Fortune), were interred, in the burial ground of the Presbyterian Church, Bay Fortune. It will be remembered that as formerly noticed in the Island Papers, this lamented young man, the only child of his parents, was one of those who were on board the brigantine "Wasp," in November last, when that vessel was wrecked upon the coast of Newfoundland, and who then unfortunately perished. The body of Mr. William R. Dingwell was recovered after a lapse of about thirty days, and, under the kind superintendence of Matthew Stewart, Esq. St. John's, N. F., received the rites of the sepulture with every due solemnity. To gratify the yearnings of his bereaved and afflicted parents, his body, however, was disinterred on the 22nd of last month, and put on board the Brig "Splendid Lass," which arrived with it, at Bay Fortune, on the 3rd inst. Previously to the re-interment of the body, the coffin was opened and the remains of the beloved youth, still quite perfect, were easily recognized by the sorrowing parents and friends. The funeral procession consisted of a large body of neighbours and friends, every one of whom we believe, deeply sympathized with the bereaved parents, who had, by an unlooked for visitation of Divine Providence, been deprived of their dearest treasure, an only son—an only child, in the 19th year of his age—a young man of the gentlest manners and most amiable disposition, and who had given the fairest and most pleasing promise of being, not only the pride and comfort of his parents in their declining years, but of becoming one of the most useful and respected members of the community that now lament his loss. The death of this dear youth has bowed down the heads of his parents with sorrow to the dust; but that the chastisement may be blessed to them, by Him who sent it; and that they may soon be able thankfully to recognize, in it, the hand of Him who loves them, are the earnest hopes, not only of the sympathising friend who pens this obituary, but he believes, of all who sorrow with them—and they are many.—Com.

At St. Eleanor's, on Friday the 2d inst. Mrs. Elizabeth Cannon, wife of Mr. George Cannon, aged 73 years. The deceased was much respected, and leaves behind her 12 children, 91 grand children, and 10 great grand children.

MARRIED.  
On Tuesday, the 29th ult., by the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Donald McDonald of Mermaid Farm, to Isabella, second daughter of Mr. Donald McBeath, of Ross Vale, Hillsborough.

At Charlottetown, on the 2d inst., by the Rev. R. McNair, Mr. Arthur Harvey, Covehead, to Miss Ann McKenzie.

At Charlottetown, on the 8th inst., by the same, Mr. Dagald Stewart, Lot 30, to Miss Mary Campbell.

PASSENGERS.  
In the Steamer Rose, on Monday last—Mr. Metzler, and 10 in the steerage.  
In the Caroline from Bermuda, Miss Jane L. Haszard.  
In the Rose, from Pictou, on Thursday evening, May 8th—Rev. Alexander Campbell, Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Messrs. Robert Alston, William Scott, Alexander Ross, Miss Ross, and 4 in the steerage.