or to create an impression that the laws of the land will be disregarded—equally would it be a misfortune, if the rents and arrears were hastily and harshly collected by the Proprietors, or resisted by the Tenants. The Commissioners, therefore, having no power until their judgment is delivered to control either Proprietors or Tenants, would earnestly urge that wherever Tenancies exist, the year's rent, terminating in last spring may be fairly demanded, and ought to be cheerfully paid, so that all part as may stand relatively to each other in the same position next year as they do now; neither taking advantage of the delay which it is quite apparent has been forced upon the Commission by the wide range of the enquiry and the magnitude of the interests at stake."

The Commisioners saw, while they were here, that there was a great deal of excitement in the country, therefore they gave this recommendation, though they admitted they had no power to carry it out. The Colonial Minister says that no legislation would be valuable except such as was based upon their suggestions, and this is just what the petitioners pray for. They state that they have made great efforts to pay this year's rent, and I believe the statement is true. Many of them sold off their produce to pay their rent, and now their cattle are dying for want of fodder. From the distress now in the country it behoves this House to protect the tenantry all in its power. Since the Commissioner's Court arose, I believe there has been a greater number of writs issued than was for the eight or ten years previously. [The hon. member then gave the number of writs issued by several proprietors, for which see report of Special Committee on this subject already published.] It may be said that these petitions have been got up by parties, but I declare I never saw one of them until after they were going round to be signed. The proprietors have no feeling for the poor tenantry. It was stated before the Commissioners that it was better for the people of the Island to remain tenants than to become freeholders; but, Sir, this is not the case, except it be in some settlements where the tenants are able to pay their rents. I understand that the proprietors of some estates are endeavouring to drive out the poor tenants, and get in others in their places. Another drawback is short leases, such as were given on the Tracadie estate, a number of which will be out in four or five years. A great many cases of hardship have recently taken place, and though probably there is a little restraint upon the proprietors now, while the House is in Session, yet after that is over, they will no doubt go on as they did last autumn, and before the Commissioners have given in their award there may be a large amount of suffering. Now, Sir, I would be sorry to raise any feeling on either side of the House on the subject under consideration. (Laughter from the Government benches.) Hon. members may laugh, but I am sincere in this statement. I do not wish to make any political capital out of those petitions. Now, with respect to it being made unconstitutional to pass an Act, without a suspending clause, to prevent distraints for rent, I will refer to an Act that is on our Statute Books, which enacts that the payment of rent shall not be enforced at a certain time of the year; and I never heard that it was thought by any person to be unconstitutional. An Act such as is now prayed for by the tenantry would, in my opinion, be just as reasonable as the one referred to. I believe that hon. members on the other side of the House have expressed themselves unfavourable to the passing of a measure to prevent distraints for rent, which I regret; for even though it should be considered a stretch of power to enact a law of this kind—which I do not think it is—yet in the circumstances of the case I consider such legislation would be justifiable. I would be happy if the Government would take up the matter, and sorry to see any party feeling manifested on a question of such importance. I will now read the resolution which I intend to submit, should the House go into Committee on the petitions:—

"Whereas on the 1st day of October, 1860, at the closing of the Court of Her Majesty's High Commissioners, appointed for the settlement of all differences existing between Landlord and Tenant in this Island, they, the said Commissioners, unanimously recommended the Proprietors of land to abstain from harsh proceedings in the collection of rents, and to practise forbearance and moderation towards their Tenantry; while the latter were enjoined to pay the then accruing year's rent, the Commissioners having on that occasion expressed a very decided opinion that it would be a misfortune to the Colony if the rents and arrears were harshly and hastily collected by the Proprietors.

"And whereas it has come to the knowledge of the House of Assembly that the recommendation thus addressed to the Proprietors has been, in many instances, disregarded by them—proceedings at law having been instituted in many cases for the recovery of arrears of rent, by which great hardship and suffering have been brought upon the Tenantry, who were generally disposed to comply with the recommendation of the Commissioners as regards the payment of one year's rent.

"And whereas numerous petitions have been presented to the House of Assembly during the present Session, praying that some measure may be devised by the Legislature of this Island, to prevent further proceedings at law for the recovery of the arrears of rent pending the award of the Land Commissioners: and it is the opinion of this Committee that a hope has been generally entertained that the award of the Commissioners would be shortly made known, and relief thereby afforded to the Tenantry; but it is evident from the tenor of a Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, bearing date 2d January, 1861, published subsequently to the signing of the aforesaid petitions, that the Act passed last Session for giving effect to the award of the Commissioners will not be submitted for the Royal assent, it being considered too general in its character, in consequence of which objection it will be necessary for the Legislature to pass another Act in its next Session, should the award be given in the course of the ensuing Summer, and thus the settlement of the Land question will be necessarily postponed to a late period of the year 1862, when a second Act may receive the Royal allowance, if the award be such as to meet with the approval of the Crown.

"It is therefore Resolved, That the House of Assembly be recommended to pass a short Act embracing or carrying out the spirit of the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners above referred to, with the view of preventing distraints or executions to issue for arrears of rent until the Land Commissioners shall make their award, and the same be ratified by such a law as may receive the assent of Her Majesty the Queen."

Correspondence.

NEWFOUNDLAND AFFAIRS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

St. John's, Newfoundland, June 4, 1861.

Hon. E. Whelan—Dear Sir—I observe you have received some strange accounts of the late political troubles in this country. You can give little credit to the telegrams which have been sent from this place, as they were generally concocted by the present Government. The first cause of the troubles was the dismissal of the late Liberal Government, at a time when the Assembly was in session, and when the party dismissed had a majority in the House of 18 to 12 members. The ostensible reason of their dismissal was, that Mr. Kent, the late Premier, in his place in the House, accused the Governor of leaguing with the Assistant Judges of the Supreme Court to defeat a Currency Bill brought in by the Government, which would affect the salaries of the Judges. Sir Alexander wrote to Mr. Kent, asking him if he had made use of the language attributed to him in the reports as published in the newspapers, to which Mr. Kent replied, that it was unconstitutional in the Governor to bring him to account for anything he might have said in his place as a member of the Assembly; whereupon the Governor immediately sent notices to all the members of the late Government that their services were no longer required as his advisers.

The dismissal led to a general election at a time when many of the supporters of the Liberal party were absent from the country on a sealing voyage. The Tory, or as they are now called, the Orange party used every means in their power, fair and unfair, to gain a majority in the new House. But notwithstanding all their bribery and something that looks like treachery on the part of some of the Liberals, the Orange party found that the result would be a majority of two members for the Catholic interest, then having the Government in their hands, and to avoid a defeat they must disfranchise two districts, viz., Harbor Grace and Harbor Maine, which leaves them a majority of two in the present incomplete House now sitting. There were only twenty-six members allowed to take their seats in consequence of the disfranchisement of the places named. Of these twenty-six members, fourteen are supporters of the Orange party and twelve for the Liberal cause; but out of these twelve one of the number, A. Shea, Esq., is detained in Ireland on account of ill health; and having chosen a Tory Speaker, the divisions are 13 to 11. Now, if Harbour Grace and Harbor Maine were represented the divisions would be 15 for the Catholics and 13 for the Tories; and when Mr. Shea returns the Liberals will have a majority of three members, if the present Speaker continues in office. So that you see it will be impossible for the present Government to stand beyond the next meeting of the Legislature, say in January next. In the meantime, they are striving hard to form an amalgamated Government, by offering the offices of Colonial Secretary and Receiver General (the two best), to any Catholic member who will accept them; but I know quite well they will not succeed in the dodge. The only one Catholic member at present associated with them is the Hon. Lawrence O'Brien, who retained his position as President of both Councils under all the recent changes; and he has always proved himself too true to the cause of the people for the Tories to reckon on any support from him. Still they were glad to leave him in his position for the sake of having one Catholic amongst them; but they will never get another.

Now, as for the disturbances, the first was on the Nomination day at St. John's, when one of the Tory party fired several shots at some men who tore down a flag from his premises, some of whom he wounded severely. Apprehensions were felt for the peace of the town that day, but the influence of the Catholic clergy proved quite sufficient on this, as on all former occasions, to restore good order; and the day passed off without any serious disturbance, beyond the breaking of some glass; and everything remained quiet until the day on which the Legislature was opened. Part of the military were drawn up on the grounds of the Colonial Building long before the Governor left Government House, and the road from Government House to the Building was lined with troops as the Governor passed along. Why this grand display was made no person can imagine, unless it was the prompting of a guilty conscience, for surely up to this time there was not the slightest demonstration on the part of the immense multitude assembled to warrant this insult to their loyalty. However, they bore all patiently; the House of Assembly was opened by a speech in the usual manner, but with closed doors—no person being admitted to the galleries as on former occasions. At one time the people made a slight move towards the doors of the Building, when the Riot Act was immediately read; but, thanks to the exertions of the clergy, the chance of committing legal murder was lost for that time. Later in the day, when the members had gone to their homes, (the Tories being escorted to their houses by Policemen and soldiers), a crowd of boys began to break the windows of two obnoxious Catholics who had resisted the influence of the clergy and supported two candidates for Harbor Maine in opposition to the two named by the Liberal party. When the boys accomplished their end, and when there was a very great number of persons in the street, but no sign of any disturbance, a party of military came from the garrison and paraded the streets, for what purpose no person could tell, as all the mischief which it seemed the desire of the people to do had been done an hour before the military arrived. The people were merely standing in groups, (large ones certainly, but such an immense crowd could not separate in an instant) when the Riot Act was again read, and the military fired on the people wounding some 8 or 10 persons, and killing two on the spot and two more have since died from their wounds. Amongst the wounded, I am sorry to say the Rev. Jeremiah O'Donnell, our universally beloved Parish Priest, received a shot in the ancle; he is recovering steadily, though very slowly, and it will be a long time before he can resume his duties. He was trying to persuade the commandant not to fire, when he received the ball in his ancle. Now, this firing took place at least two hundred yards from the place where the mischief was done; in fact the people were dismissed from going to their homes, more for the purpose of looking at the soldiers than anything else. When the firing took place, some ten or twelve men waited on Doctor Mullock, at the Episcopal Residence, and told him what had happened, at the same time asking him not to interfere with his people; but to allow them to take vengeance. His Lordship at once commanded these men to go to their homes, and banish such thoughts from their breasts; but they refused, saying they would have revenge for the lives of their fellow-townsmen and friends. His Lordship, finding that they were so determined on this course, immediately ordered the Cathedral bells to be rung, when the people came flocking to the Cathedral from all parts of the town, and the streets became deserted. Never shall I forget the scene in the Cathedral, which was crowded to suffocation, and thousands on the grounds who could not gain admission. The Cathedral was dimly lighted (9 o'clock, p. m.,) and the determined expression of countenance of these six or seven thousand men was fearful to behold. The Bishop was on the steps of the Altar in full Pontificals, and when the noise of the multitudes coming in had subsided, he came to the rating, and mounting a chair, begged of the people to disperse and go home quietly, assuring them that if his life could save them from injury he would willingly make the sacrifice. Then, raising his voice, he asked the people would they obey him, when an indistinct murmur of "No! No!" was heard from the multitude; whereupon his Lordship turned to the Altar, and taking the sacred Host from the tabernacle, he showed it to the people, and implored them in the name of the living God there present, to retire peaceably, when they answered him that they would. Thus the town was saved from destruction; for, were it not for the ringing of the Cathedral bells, 5000 men, armed with sealing guns, would have killed every soldier in the place, and burned the barracks and all public buildings; and this would have been accomplished in less than one hour from the firing of the troops.

At Harbor Grace the only disturbance which took place was on Nomination day, when the Orangemen attacked the Catholics who were not one to ten in number, they being nearly all at the ice, and came near annihilating them; but when the people of Carbonear heard what was going on they went over to Harbor Grace, a distance of three miles, and quickly changed the state of affairs. When the Orangemen found that they were getting the worst of it, they immediately called out to have the Riot Act read, which the Magistrate (a conscientious Protestant) refused to do, saying there was no occasion, and it proved he was correct; for no lives were lost, though there was a great deal of property destroyed.

At Harbour Maine, I am sorry to say, the contest was entirely between Catholics, there being four candidates in the field—two being chosen by the Liberal party, and two, also Liberals, but who said they had as good a right to be elected as the nominees of people living in St. John's. At all events, one man was deliberately shot dead and some four or five others wounded by the party opposing the nominees. There is no understanding this affair; and it is expected that some strange revelations will come to light bye and bye connected with Harbor Maine. I think myself, and it is the opinion of many, that Tory intrigue has been at work. It seems that the Orange party, knowing they never can command a majority of members in this country, were determined on disfranchising the districts which would return Liberal members; for I cannot see any other reason for their getting up an opposition in St. John's, where they are 700 votes in the minority; and also in other places where their case is equally hopeless. If they succeeded in getting up a row in St. John's, they would, of course, have left the town without members as they can do as they like with the Returns while they have the Government in their hands; and if they could have succeeded in disfranchising the town, I have no doubt they would have petitioned to have our constitution taken from us.

You will wonder why the Liberal party do not appear as strong now as before the dissolution, even with four members for two districts at present disfranchised. The reason is, that the Tories got two members for Burin—a Catholic district—without any opposition, where a man of straw would beat them. This is the treachery I referred to on the part of the Liberals. Two men were named for Burin, and when the Nomination day came, they did not come forward—supposed to have been bribed. A Committee is now sitting on the Harbour Maine election, but will not report until next session. As for the house burning, it is generally believed here that the Tories caused it themselves, in order to bring disgrace on the Catholics, and represent the country to the Home Government as unfit for the management of its own affairs. The destruction of the property of Strapp, the Returning Officer at Harbour Maine, was caused by his not making any return, when there was nothing to hinder him, as he had all the Poll Books in his possession; and all the votes were regularly polled without any obstruction. In fact, the disturbance at that place was not near the hustings at all; but I suppose Strapp is well paid. At Harbour Grace there were two Liberal candidates and one Tory nominated; but here again they managed to have no polling day, as the Returning Officer said he was afraid to open a poll, (also well paid.)

We are all quiet again now, just as if nothing happened.

TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Jura off Father Point.

DEATH OF COUNT CAVOUR.

Father Point, June 16.

Steamship Jura, from Liverpool 6th and Londonderry 7th, arrived off this Point at 9.30 this evening. The steamship Hibernia passed Father Point on her way down at midnight Saturday.

Steamship Nova Scotian arrived out on the 5th.

The City of Baltimore left Liverpool for New York on the 5th. She took out £161,400 in specie.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord John Russell said in Parliament that the Government had no information of a Canadian volunteer regiment having tendered its services to the United States, and of course could not say what action should be taken.

The Adriatic took out the news that the British Government would not permit privateers or armed vessels to take prizes into British ports. Lord John Russell, in his letter to the Lords of the Admiralty, directing them to carry out this intention, says it is done to secure the strictest neutrality.

Mr. Seldell gave notice that he should ask Ministers if this interdiction is not at variance with former practice, and the reason for this change of maritime policy.

Parliamentary proceedings on the 5th were unimportant. The position of the Irish members relative to the Galway subsidy was again debated, and several disclaimed any intention of tampering with the Government.

Lord Stanley gave notice of his intention to ask what steps Government had taken to prevent the violation of neutrality in the case of the regiment of volunteers in Canada who have offered their services to the United States.

Five cases, containing 100 rifles, directed to the Commercial Bank of New York, intended for the steamer Adriatic, were stopped at Galway by the agent of the line, who refused to let them pass.

Lord Elgin, at the banquet given to him by the Grocers' Company of London, said he doubted if we could have trade with China without political relations, although he agreed that it was not political relations, but trade that was wanted. He believed our relations were now established on a footing not likely to be disturbed in future.

The Bombay mail of the 12th has reached England. News unimportant.

London Money Market.—Funds continued heavy and drooping. In the discount market the supply was rather less abundant, but good bills were readily taken at 5¾. The demand at the Bank was slack.

FRANCE.

Prince Napoleon had embarked for Spain.

The Paris Bourse was flat and lower, and Rentes were quoted at 69fr. 20c., influenced mainly by Count Cavour's illness, which caused considerable anxiety.

French political news is unimportant.

The Paris correspondent of the London Herald argues that Italian independence will be buried in Count Covour's grave, and the peninsula become a mere dependency of France.

It is stated that the Emperor will send an aid-de-camp to represent him at the funeral of Count Cavour, and it is also reported that Prince Napoleon will be present.

ITALY.

Count Cavour died at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 6th inst. His death caused a profound sensation.

The evening preceding his death his state had become so alarming that great emotion was evinced by the people of Turin, and immense crowds surrounded his residence.

Signor Minghetti is entrusted *ad interim* with the portfolio of foreign affairs, and Gen. Fanti with the provisional administration of the marine.

It is rumored that Garibaldi contemplates a visit to America in a month or two, if war in Italy appears unlikely.

SPAIN.

The Queen of Spain has given birth to a princess.

AUSTRIA.

The Empress is suffering from ill health.

In the Hungarian diet the address to the Emperor, proposed by M. Deak, was adopted in the lower House by 3 majority, the vote being 155 for, to 152 against.

PRUSSIA.

The Chambers closed on the 5th with a speech by the King. He said the result of the session tends to confirm the Government in the line of policy it has adopted, and it will also augment the influence of Prussia in Europe. The votes of credit for the army did not affect any vital principle. The military organization of Prussia is strong and satisfactory. He said the Danish Government has not entirely yielded to the demands of the German Federal Diet. The proposals made by Denmark do not afford a certain prospect of a solution of the pending question, but the nature of the relations between Prussia and the Great Powers offers a guarantee that they will not be affected by the energetic measures which may become necessary within the frontiers of the German Federal territory. He concludes with aspirations for peace and prosperity.

LATEST VIA LONDONDERRY.

Turin June 6.—At the opening of the Chamber of Deputies to-day the President announced the death of Count Cavour, amid expressions of profound grief on the part of the Assembly. He pointed out the great loss that Italy had sustained, and described the signal services rendered by Cavour.

The tribune of the Chamber of Deputies will be draped in black for 20 days.

Signor Minghetti, Minister of the Interior, then announced that the Ministry felt it necessary to remain provisionally in office.

STILL LATER FROM EUROPE.

New York, June 20.

Africa arrived to day with £70 000 in specie.

Cotton closed dull; flour declined one shilling; wheat sixpence; and corn one penny.

Pork declined.

Consols 89¾.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Gregory's motion to recognize Southern Confederacy was indefinitely postponed

The Syrian Question is settled. A Christian Governor has been appointed.

Garibaldi is seriously ill.

Funds depressed at London and Paris on account of Count Cavour's death.

UNITED STATES.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

(By Telegraph to the St. John Colonial Empire.)

Boston, June 15.

Harper's Ferry is evacuated. A few rebels yet stationed on the outskirts. All the Government buildings were destroyed before the rebels left.

Three Illinois Regiments left Quincy, Illinois, yesterday for Missouri, where Governor Jackson has issued a strong disunion proclamation, calling for 50,000 volunteers to protect the State from this invasion of Federal troops.

Fortress Monroe is invested by the rebels, and the only communication with it now is by sea. The camp near Hampton confined to narrower space. An exchange of prisoners was agreed upon, but the rebels failed to respond yesterday.

The advance column of General Patterson's division, about 10,000 men, arrived at Hagerstown this morning, bound South.

The destruction of Railroad bridge property by rebels very extensive.

The elections in Maryland have resulted in a Union victory. Winter Davis was defeated, and one Union voter was assassinated.

It is reported as probable, that Anson Burlingame, whom the Austrian Government has refused to receive as American Minister, will go out Minister to China.

The ship "Nightingale" arrived at New York to-day, having been captured on the coast of Africa with 800 slaves on board.

Extraordinary precautions have been taken at Washington, in anticipation of a march by the rebels upon Alexandria.

Boston, June 18, 4 p. m.

A detachment of Ohio troops, which advanced a few miles from Alexandria in the cars, were attacked by a masked battery, and a large number killed and wounded. Some accounts say two hundred.

The New York Tribune says, that preparations for an attack on Richmond are proceeding, and a movement would be made in a fortnight.

Accounts from Monroe state that another attack would be made on Bethel. It is contemplated to take place to-night.

Montreal, June 18.

Prince Alfred arrived here at 8 o'clock this morning. The citizens were quite unprepared. He landed almost unobserved, and drove to the residence of Gen. Williams.

Boston, June 18, 8 p. m.

Great excitement at Washington, over bloody affair at Vienna. Eight of the wounded Ohio soldiers have since died.

Pickets and outposts have fallen back towards Alexandria, and Gen. Scott has ordered several regiments, and Patterson's division to Washington immediately.

More troops are to be concentrated at Baltimore.

British Steam Sloop of War Gladiator arrived at New York to-day via Cape Henry, in want of coal.

Rebels are reported to be retreating from Manassas toward Richmond.

Boston, June 20.

Skirmishes frequent.

General Lyon is effectually scattering the secessionists in Missouri.

Picket guards sight each other at Fairfax Court House. Indications of a collision to-night.

Ten regiments more ordered from Massachusetts.

Steamer Alliance captured 11 vessels on the Potomac supplying the enemy. She burnt two, sunk four, and took the remainder to Washington.

Five regiments (each one thousand strong) a-day ordered to report at Washington for week.

Developments of the Seized Telegrams.—The developments that are likely to follow the seizure of the dispatches fyled in the telegraph office will astound the country. They will show a system of treachery extending to all grades of official business and social circles. Almost everybody appears to have been engaged in giving aid and comfort to the rebels, and to have furnished means and information for securing a triumph of the rebellion. Members of Congress from Free States figure frequently among these flashes of intelligence.—*N. Y. Times.*

Interesting from the South.—*A Bostonian hung in Arkansas.*—The Chicago *Tribune* has the following despatch from Cairo:—

Cairo, June 8.

"Mr. Blanchard, a native of Maine, but for the last three years a clerk in the City Hotel at New Orleans, while coming through Union City to-day, was recognized by the secession soldiers as having a yankee hat on. A proposition was made to shoot him, and a squad of soldiers went into the cars and brought him out for that purpose, when he was recognized by a gentleman belonging at Union City, and by his intercession his life was spared.

A young man named Lambert, son of Benjamin Lambert, of the firm of Lambert & McKenzie, merchants of Alexandria, was hung as a spy at Memphis, Tenn., 6th instant. He had been to Harper's Ferry, and on his person were found drawings of the fortifications, &c.

A man named Johnson, belonging in Boston, Mass., where he has a family, was hung in Crittenden county, Ark., yesterday. He had been employed on the steamer Wm. Morrison, now laid up at Mound City. A number of merchants of Memphis, who knew him, tried to save his life, but without avail. His crime was voting for Lincoln.

Advices from Fort Pickens to the 4th inst. via New Orleans, state that 2800 rebel troops left there the night and day previous, for Virginia. The Santa Rosa 'Beauregards' had got up a mutiny and been disbanded. Seven hundred United States troops were landed on Santa Rosa Island on the 3rd, from a large sidewheel steamer.

The American brig Hope, owned at New Orleans, the British brig Venus and the American schr. Union, from Tampico, were captured by the blockading squadron on Saturday last.

The American War—and the Confederation of the British Colonies.—The American civil war will leave both the North and the South weakened commercially, weakened financially, and lowered in the scale of nations. Meantime, Canada is progressing in all these ways, and, if we can only avoid internal dissension, put down effectually the few men who are "looking to Washington," and when we do make a constitutional change, effect it by consolidating the various British colonies in this part of the world into one, we shall be a power among nations, and become, ere long, a rival to either of the confederacies which will be carved out of the debris of the once proud American Republic. We shall have a commercial marine superior to that of any country in the world save England, whom alone we shall always emulate, but of whom we can never be jealous—we shall have a territory greater than any other country—our population, numbered by millions, hardy, industrious and intelligent, will have all the elements of rapid increase, as the resources of our fields, mines, forests and fisheries are vast—and in our political institutions we shall be able to avoid the errors while we copy the merits of all the free governments on the globe. We shall then be the envy of all our neighbours, and though we may have to carry on contests, even of arms, to sustain our position, even these will foster that national spirit of which we already perceive the germs, and which must grow more vigorous as the interests of the various parts of British North America become united. This they will do in proportion as the area of our populated territory is extended, as our settlements lose the character of mere lines of houses, and as the growing commercial intercourse between the several colonies and parts of colonies expands.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

Cost of the National Hen Coop.—The Washington correspondent of the Nashville *Patriot* thus happily hits off the way in which affairs are managed in the Federal Capital:—

The way the Government gets its work done is curious. As an illustration, you and your family meet in convention of the whole, and adopt a resolution authorising the construction of a hen coop in your back yard. You at once appoint me superintendent of the work, putting a thousand or two of dollars in bank for me to check on. I get you to appoint my brother-in-law chief engineer. I appoint two of my brothers assistant superintendents, and my brother-in-law appoints two of his brothers assistant engineers—all at your expense. We buy us each a fast horse and buggy, and ride around town, drink hot cocktails and play billiards until the bank deposit gives out, when we make a printed report of seventy-three pages, furnishing you a complete topographical survey of your back yard, and a vast amount of statistical information with regard to the number of hens you are likely to have for the next forty years. We wind up the report with the announcement that the site of the hen coop has been selected, and a call for another appropriation to prosecute the work, which we assure you will be done with "vigour." You place another thousand or two in bank, and we employ two hundred hands at three dollars a day to transport seventy-five cents' worth of lumber (which costs you under our management about ten times that many dollars) to the place of operations, which requires about three months. In the meantime we drive around and go on vigorously with the liquor and the billiards. We then come up with another report, and a demand for another appropriation. With this we get the walls of the structure up, and with one or two more appropriations, and a great many more cocktails and billiards, we get the thing covered in, and at the end of twelve months, which we very appropriately style our "fiscal year," we put you in formal possession of a ten thousand dollar hen coop, that any negro carpenter would have been glad to knock up some Saturday afternoon for a suit of your old clothes.

Norfolk, Va., is the second city of importance in the State, and its foreign commerce exceeds all others. The population in 1854 was 16,500; in 1860, 14,655, of whom 3280 are slaves. The city is built on the north bank of Elizabeth river, eight miles from Hampton Roads, thirty-two miles from the ocean; one hundred and six by land and one hundred and forty by water southeast from Richmond. Mr. Jefferson predicted that Norfolk would rival New York in commercial importance. Appleton's new American Cyclopedia says: "The supplying the Northern cities with early fruits and vegetables has become an important trade, and is said to reach from $250,000 to $500,000 annually." This trade with the North has been totally suspended the present year, entailing a heavy loss to Virginia farmers.

Graphic.—The New York *Tribune* contains the following graphic paragraph:—"The fabric of New York's mercantile prosperity lies in ruins, beneath which ten thousand fortunes are buried. Many a merchant had toiled early and late, had planned and schemed when he should have slept, had denied himself needful relaxation and enjoyment in order to 'make his pile,' which he had just about completed, and was preparing to retire and spend the decline of life in ease and comfort, when the crash came and swept everything before it. Last fall he was a capitalist; to-day he is a bankrupt—bankrupt in energy, in hope, in resolution—and doomed to go down to his grave a dependent and a wreck."

Freedom of Speech.—John Swain, a baker of New York, was shot dead in a saloon in that city, on Friday afternoon last, by Stephen Merritt, for having said that the South was right in the present contest, and he was in favor of two republics. The murderer surrendered himself.—*Ib.*

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., June 24, 1861.

THE SECRET AGENT OF THE LAND COMMISSION.

The discovery of the fact, announced by us last week, that a Mr. Nightman or Whitman was located here during the last winter and spring, to get information on the sly for the Land Commissioners, with the connivance of our Government—seems to have put the editors of the *Islander* and *Monitor* in a towering passion, and we are, in consequence, favoured with a very liberal allowance of abuse from them both. The blackguardism of the *Monitor*—even when *favoured* with the contributions of that worse than useless appendage to the Executive Council, Donald Curry—has never yet done harm to any one, and never can, so long as the character of its nominal editor and proprietor is known to be the very worst in the community. J. B. Cooper is too insignificant for public notice; and as for W. H. Pope, Esqr., Colonial Secretary and editor of the *Islander*, he is generally allowed to be the most unpopular man in the Colony; and, therefore, we rather like to be abused by him. Mr. Pope charges us with falsehood for having stated that the secret agent was here, with the knowledge of the Government, getting crammed "with all the statistical information which the public records can afford." Now, let us hear Mr. Pope's denial of the fact. He says:—

"We have been informed and believe that so far from officials "cramming" him, no official in the Island—save and except the Lieutenant Governor—had any idea who he was, or for what object he was getting information. We have heard, and believe it to be the fact, that he made his mission known to the Lieutenant Governor, and to one member of the Government only, and that during his stay here, and until a period after his departure, no other member of the Government had the slightest knowledge of him or his business, nor did he deem it necessary that they should."

It will be seen from the first sentence of the above extract, that no official knew any thing about Mr. Whitman's mission but the Lieut. Governor. The second sentence, however, contradicts this statement, for it is admitted that "one member of the Government" was in the secret as well as His Excellency. If "no other member of the Government" knew any thing of the matter, we must say that there seems to be very little confidence between them. We suppose the Lieut. Governor was the first person acquainted with the object of Mr. Whitman's visit, and he did not think proper to entrust more than one member of his Cabinet with the secret; while that favoured one seemed to have about the same amount of confidence in his colleagues! They are a happy family certainly!

The *Islander* does not deny that Mr. Whitman has had ready access to the public records. Indeed, the fact cannot be denied. We know that he has occupied a room in the Colonial Building for the purpose; and that he has had authority to examine the books of the land assessment receivers throughout the Island, to enable him to make up his statistical tables. We should not object to these proceedings, if there were no deception in the matter. But that deception has been practised is a fact beyond all question, and the discovery of that fact is what has given vent to the rage of the *Islander* and *Monitor*. When the Land Commission was established we were assured by the Government and their supporters that every opportunity would be given to the tenantry to make their case known—and that the enquiry into every matter involved in the Land question should be as public as possible. Now, Mr. Whitman's mission, if his information is to be made use of, is a flagrant violation of that promise. But it is still worse, if it be true, as we are informed, that Mr. Whitman went about the country, particularly in Prince County, representing himself as a person connected with a great Fishery Company about to be established and to open an extensive trade to connect with the New Brunswick Railway. Indeed, hints were thrown out, as we understand, that a Railway would be built somewhere in Prince County, and that immense numbers of sheep would be purchased in the Island for the American market. We have no doubt that Mr. Whitman succeeded in pulling the wool over the eyes of a good many people, and when he asked them to put a price on their lands, the figure was a pretty high one, in consideration we may be sure of a railway, and the fishery business. The *Monitor* states—and let it be remembered that the *Monitor* is the organ of the sheep, the [illegible] advocates the crooked policy of its masters—that the people of this Island, "in several sections," were actuated by "dishonorable motives" to depreciate the value of their lands. We suppose Mr. Whitman came to correct that error; and by holding out expectations of an extensive traffic with the Island, and an unprecedented demand for its productions, the people might be induced to set a higher price upon their land than they otherwise would. If this be not practising deception of a most disgraceful character, we really know not what deception is.

It was broadly asserted in the *Monitor*, a few weeks ago, that the Government were *promised* the support of the Catholics of this Colony if a grant were given to St. Dunstan's College. We promptly repudiated the idea that any such promise could be made, or if made by any one, would or could be performed. We subsequently stated, on the best authority, that no such promise was ever made by any person having influence over the Catholic body of this Island. In the last No. of the Orange organ a most lamentable attempt is made to wriggle out of this falsehood. Alluding to the editor of the *Examiner*, the *Monitor* says:—

"And yet this *gentleman* has the hardihood to charge us "with falsehood and impudence for hinting that the Govern"ment might calculate upon Romish support, if their wishes "were conceded in the matter of endowments. Now, Mr. "Whelan knows, and Mr. Coles knows, that *to-morrow* the "ruling power of the Romish church would sever its connec"tion with the Liberal party, if the Government would only "reinstate them in their lost supremacy. Now, we happen "to *know* that the Roman Catholic Bishop did request the en"dowment of St. Dunstan's College, and that unmistakeable "allusion to Catholic support was made by him or others in "his confidence."

So, after all, it is merely a matter of opinion with our Orange contemporary that "the Government *might caculate* on Romish support," &c. This is very different from saying that Catholic support was absolutely promised. What he means by the "Romish church" having connection with the Liberal party, is beyond our comprehension. The Catholic Church has no connection with any political party. Its members are perfectly free to enrol themselves under any political banner—quite as much so as Methodists, Presbyterians, or the people of any other denomination. We might just as well say that the Wesleyan Church is a political institution, for instance, because most of its members are in alliance with the Tory party, and supportrs of a Tory Government. We are also ignorant of the "supremacy" which the Catholic Church lost on the change of rulers in this Colony. A very few Catholics held petty situations under the late Liberal Government, but all the principal offices were filled by Protestants. The Catholics, as a body, received no favours from that or any other Administration in this Island. They put forth no claims to superior advantages over other denominations, *and received none.* As regards the statement that the Bishop of Charlottetown requested an endowment for St Dunstan's College, we have no public proof of the fact. If he did, we are not prepared to say that the request would be an unreasonable one. In point of efficiency, St. Dunstan's is fully equal to the Prince of Wales College, which receives a very large share of the public money, and has no more of a sectarian character about it than the latter institution. St. Dunstan's College enjoys, we admit, the confidence of nearly one half the population of the Island, and we suppose that is a good reason why it should not receive a shilling of the money which that half pays towards the support of the Government. As respects the assertion that the Bishop of Charlottetown or "others in his confidence" *alluded* to Catholic support in return for a grant to St. Dunstan's College, we state again most positively and authoritatively, that no *political* support from the Catholics was promised by his Lordship or any "others in his confidence."

The *Monitor* is very anxious that the Protestant Liberals should cast off their Catholic brethren who hold the same political opinions as they do themselves. This is the aim of Bigotry and Orangeism all over the world. To infuse religious rancour into the breast of every Protestant—to represent the Catholic as the type of an inferior race, to disunite him from his brethren, and then to proscribe and trample upon him—are the only means the Bigots have for building up political supremacy. Thank Heaven the day has gone by when such an unholy crusade can have the slightest prospect of success in Prince Edward Island.

THE GOVERNMENT *vs.* STEAM COMMUNICATION.

The leading article in the *Islander* of Friday last purports to be an explanation of the misunderstanding between the Government of this Island and Mr. Boultenhouse, owner of the *Westmorland*, with respect to the discontinuance of the services of that vessel as a mail packet. It appears the Government required certain repairs to be done to the *Westmorland* in the Spring of this year, before the mails were given to her—that, amongst other things, Mr. Boultenhouse was asked to have the hull of his vessel "surveyed by two competent ship carpenters appointed by the Government for that duty, and certificate of approval obtained." Although it is not denied that Mr. Boultenhouse made the repairs to his boat that were pointed out as necessary, he did not get the survey of the hull, alleging that there was no place at Charlottetown harbour or Shediac to throw over his vessel, in order to have her bottom thoroughly examined. He has now taken her to Halifax, where she will be laid up in a dry dock, to undergo all the examination and repairs that may be necessary. But previous to going to Halifax, she made her trips between Charlottetown, Pictou, Shediac and Bedeque, with her usual regularity, and had a fair number of passengers each trip. The Colonial Secretary himself, while decrying the Boat as unseaworthy, did not hesitate to trust his precious carcase in her from Shediac; the Postmaster General of New Brunswick, who visited our Island a few days ago, to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the humbug about the Mails not being forwarded to Shediac as in former years, had confidence enough in the Steamer to take passage in her; and two Executive Councillors, the Hon. James Yeo and the Hon. J. C. Pope, were also glad enough to avail themselves of her accommodation. And yet the Government will not give the Mails to a steamer in which members of the Council and the Colonial Secretary