them. After some discussion, it was proposed that I should act as leader, which my pride prevented me from refusing; although, to tell the truth, the specimen which I had enjoyed that night of the honour to be derived from such an expedition did not much encourage me. To decline, however, would have argued cowardice.

But how were we to be arranged? My knowledge of the localities about here now came to my assistance. I remembered that there was a projecting rock about a pistol-shot from the mouth of the cavern, and from which it would be distinctly covered, large enough to allow one man to stand upon it, and which, provided he could maintain himself in the position with one hand, would enable him to observe distinctly the proceedings below, and to fire upon any person coming out of it with a pistol or carbine. The question was then, who would venture there? The officer could not leave his men. After some consultation, it was agreed that Mr. R——, a young gentleman of considerable activity and bodily strength, who had joined our party on the evening before, should undertake it. Some presence of mind and coolness, as well as strength, were required for this part of the undertaking, as the rock stood more than two hundred feet directly over the sea, and a glance downwards was quite sufficient to satisfy any reasonable person of the practicability of breaking his neck. He undertook to act his part, and with much the same sort of grateful feelings to my considerate friends, I prepared for mine. Four soldiers, with the officer, were to be my escort; seven more, with a corporal, and the remainder of the volunteering party, were to stop on the cliff and watch the proceedings above. Just as we were about to descend, the officer called the corporal aside, and whispered in his ear, as he afterwards told me, to keep a close watch on their guide, whom he had every reason to suspect was not a true man.

I then began to lead the way. As we should descend with our faces to the rock, it was resolved that our guns should be fixed behind our backs until we reached the turn in the path. On we went, and had just descended a little below the turn, when, as I was taking my gun rightly in my hand, a shrill whistle from above rang among the rocks. In a moment we had our guns fixed, and every eye below the turn was directed towards the mouth of the cavern. In about half a minute we observed the head of a man extended from behind a piece of jutting rock; and almost at the same instant we heard the report of a gun above us, and saw the slate and dusty gravel of the rock dashed about the face, which disappeared before we could learn whether or not it was hit.

No sooner had I heard the shot, when the officer cried, 'Now, my lads, down upon them.' We rolled, tumbled, slid, jumped, down the remainder of the path, and were at the mouth of the cavern before we could have thought it possible the minute before. To cock our guns, to present bayonets, and charge, was the work of a moment—we were in the centre of the cavern.

'Holy Vargin and blessed Saints defind us!' cried a shrill, squeaking, voice, from one side of the strange retreat. 'Blessid Mother keep us—what's this at all at all?'

'Holloa, my old lady!' cried the officer; 'who are you? Come out, my old damsel, and let us get a glimpse of you.' And so saying, he, with one or two of the soldiers, groped his way towards the side from whence the voice proceeded.

'Oh, what are yees, at all at all? Sure, an' I thought it was my own Mick that was coming home to me, and driving the cows before him—God bless him! Oh, thin, what!'——

'Cows! my good friend,' said the officer. 'How the devil could cows get here; unless they were sea-calves you mean?'

'Ooh, thin, sure enough, but I thought I was at home; an' where am I, my jewel; an' who are yees?'

'Why, first and foremost, you are in possession of his Majesty the king's troops; and we are come here to take and possess ourselves of the person of a man called Shawn Buie, if you know such an one.'

'Shawn Buie! Is it him that was drownded at the cliffs of Mohir you mean?—an' it 'll be long before yees find him?'

'Indeed I'm thinking so, with you for our guide!' said one of the men, 'so I think we must put you out of our way for a while.'

'Taur a mon dioul!' said a voice from behind; and at the same moment the soldier staggered back beneath a blow from the direction in which the voice came. A figure darted to the mouth of the cavern; several shots were fired after him; but the darkness and the smoke prevented correct aim. A plunge into the the sea was heard, and we all rushed out. He had dived, and the direction which he had taken under water we could not at once perceive. The noise of the shots below had awakened the attention of those above, and now every eye was strained to mark the spot when he rose.

Partly from horror, and partly from fright, I lost the recollection of my situation, and uttered an involuntary groan. So unexpected a sound, in such a place, produced an alarming effect upon my auditors. Whether it was compunction for the deed which had seized the guilty pair, or terror, combined with a sense of guilt, I cannot now pretend to determine; but they stood motionless for upwards of a minute. By lying close to the surface of the ground I succeeded in escaping their sight. They stood for a time utterly confounded. Encouraged by the effect which it produced, and now so far collected as to perceive the danger of my position, I repeated the groan, with a more mournful, and at the same time less natural tone.

'Blessed Virgin, save us!' said Shawn's companion, dreadfully alarmed.

'What are yees frightened at!' said the other, evidently as much terrified, but endeavouring to brave it out. 'Are yees a divil or a christhian—tell us that?' said he, roaring out, trying with the effort to drown his fears.

I then collected all my energies, and uttered one of the most unearthly and violent shrieks that was ever heard under similar circumstances. The effect was instantaneous; the next moment saw them sliding, or rather rolling down the pathway, and allowing me time sufficient to escape in perfect safety.

'Wurrah sthru, wurra sthru! will yees kill my, child yees murthering villins, that never did hurt nor harm to baste nor Christhan? Let him alone, I say agin; or I'll be the death of yees—you red lobster!' said the old hag, who, at the first alarm, had sprung up, and following us out, had seized hold of the officer by the throat. One of the soldiers struck her with the butt end of his musket, to make her let go her hold; and in return received a blow from a stone on the head which levelled him with the earth. The row now became general. Several soldiers fired into the cavern at once. A cry was heard, followed by a deep groan. For a moment I felt horrified; and would have given my best Rigby that we had not fired. The next thing, however, was to see what work we had done. We groped our way in, unmolested by the poor old woman, whom the violence of the blow and the cry of the wounded person had quite overcome—she had fainted. After a short time we found the body of a little boy, who was sent with the fugitive from the dancing party a few Sundays before. The poor little fellow was quite dead—he had been shot through the heart.

In the mean time, our friends above kept a sharp look out. As soon as Shawn Buie had risen to the surface of the water, he was saluted with a discharge of musketry, which, however, appeared to prove ineffectual in consequence of the deceptive distance. Several balls fell far short; some beyond; only one seemed to be well aimed. He did not, however, appear to be struck; but turned over and dived again like a well experienced and powerful swimmer. I had returned from the cavern before he rose the second time; the officer pointed in the direction where he expected him to rise. I rested my rifle upon a jutting portion of rock, ready to fire; for I found that I had now too far involved myself to decline acting as I was commanded. After some time, having waited longer than we thought it possible for a living person to remain under water, we saw the bare feet of a man rise out of the sea, and then settle down, the body ascending slowly after them, and turning on its back.

'He is dead!' cried all at once.

'Who is dead? Is it my child? Have yees killed my child, you murthering divils? Have yees killed my child, I say agin? Och, then, has it come to this; that I'—and she fainted again.

I now ascended the cliff as speedily as I could, leaving the military to guard those below, in order to consult with my friends on the top as to the proper mode of proceeding. It was considered best to despatch messengers for two or three boats, which could convey the bodies and the old woman home, instead of forcing her, and dragging them up the cliff. Three gentlemen set off forthwith, and I remained above with the rest of the volunteers. All began again to assume the appearance of tranquility. The stranger lay beside me, tied by the wrists and legs; his face swollen and bloody, which I was told was caused by a blow which he received from one of the guards when he gave the whistle that first startled us, which put a decided negative on all further signals from him. The body of Shawn Buie floated on the surface of the blue sea, tossing up and down with every tossing wave.

After repeating the occurrence which happened in the cave more than once, we began to turn our eyes toward the line of coast from whence the boats should come. By degrees one of us observed the body to drift away close to Bishop's Island; but still we thought that, perhaps, the rising of the tide might [illegible]

ance remained, save the ruffling of the water where he had been. We looked until our eyes strained again. Some said that a shark must have carried the body down; but that was negatived at once. Others said that he dived again; but it seemed impossible that he could be alive. We suggested; we contradicted; we looked; we strained; but all to no purpose—the body of Shawn Buie had vanished; and was never heard of more.

Correspondence.

THE TEMPORAL POWER OF THE POPE.

To the Editor of the Islander.

Sir—I have no desire to enter into a "religious controversy" with you, but I purpose to continue my observations on the temporal power of the Pope; and as the subject is of a historical and political nature, rather than of a religious one, and as you commenced the attack on the Pope, I presume you will be honourable enough to give my correspondence a place in your paper. Anything that I may have hitherto said savouring of religious controversy, has been said on the defensive. I have not, I believe, written one word calculated to hurt the religious feelings of those who differ from me in religion. I do not wish to assail or ridicule, in your columns, any of the tenets of the belief of Protestants, who are at perfect liberty to believe Catholic doctrines to be "the masterpiece of Satan," as you inform us they do.

In justification of your attacks, you say that "anything that we have ever written calculated to displease Catholics, has been written in answer to attacks made in the *Examiner*." If my memory serves me well, I do not think that Mr. Whelan attacked any of the dogmas of Protestants, or spoke slightly thereof. He did, indeed, allude, in condemnatory terms, to the violence of a portion of the press when writing on the Italian question, and in doing so he was perfectly justified; for the virulence displayed against the Pope by many journalists is nothing less than disgraceful. Allow me, Sir, to ask you was it in answer to attacks made in the *Examiner* that you, in the last *Islander*, represented the claims of the Church of Rome as "*monstrous pretensions?*" Whilst you say that you entertain sentiments of the highest respect towards Dr. McIntyre and his clergy, why do you outrage their feelings by unnecessarily stigmatizing portions of their "belief" in a style more worthy of a fanatical street-preacher than of a gentleman? You say that "religion is a matter between every man and his God." Why, then, do you endeavor to heap odium on the religion of Catholics, by calling portions of that religion "monstrous pretensions?" Is this language dignified, is it becoming the first official of the Government of this Colony? Is it to insult Catholics thus that you are paid a large salary from the public funds of this Island? Do you imagine that there are not Catholics, including "the fearless, independent and liberty-loving Montalembert," who are as capable as Protestants are of judging what claims constitute "*monstrous pretensions?*"

In your last issue you say:—"We know of no more saddening reflection than this, that the history of the religion of Jesus, who declared the great and comprehensive commandment, 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,' is the record of the foulest crimes and atrocities ever committed by man against his fellow. Its pages tell of cruelties at the mention of which the soul sickens, and which exceed the hellish barbarities of Pagan savages." These expressions are altogether unworthy of a Christian—they are a most gross calumny on Christianity.

Your assertion that "the Roman Catholic Church is chargeable with having caused the death of thousands of heretics in nameless ways," is simply untrue. I do not deny that some Catholics may have "caused the death of thousands of heretics;" but in this they were carried away by passion, and acted contrary to the doctrines and precepts of the Catholic Church, which now, as she has ever done, commands her children to love their enemies, to do good to those that hate them, and to pray for those who persecute and calumniate them.

Your puerile sophism regarding the figurative expression, "Christ by unction," is altogether unworthy of serious consideration. You know very well that no Catholic believes the Pope, who is only a creature, to be equal in power to Christ, who is the Son of God; and it is, to say the least, very trifling on your part to descend to a mere play upon words. This childish *ruse*, together with your insinuation, that I represented the Pope as having "all power in heaven and earth," are calculated to induce the belief that your position is rather untenable, when you are obliged to employ such questionable means to sustain it.

The excommunication of Elizabeth, the life of Alexander VI., Dr. Cahill, "Protestant Bibles," &c., are all foreign to my subject; and as a reply to your remarks thereon would occupy too much space, and draw me into a religious controversy, which you appear so desirous of avoiding, I will proceed to give a short account of the origin and growth of the Papal sovereignty.

To borrow the words of an illustrious Sardinian of our century: "There is no sovereignty in Europe more justifiable than that of the Sovereign Pontiff. But what is truly astonishing is to see the Popes becoming sovereigns without their knowledge, and even in spite of themselves. The See of Rome seemed elevated by an invisible law, and the head of the universal Church grew into a sovereign. From the martyr's scaffold he ascended a throne, which at first was not perceptible, but which insensibly became consolidated like all great institutions." The Church possessed property in the earliest ages. We read in the New Testament that the early Christians sold houses and lands, and laid the purchase money at the feet of the Apostles to form from it a common fund for the general necessities: and no person could take away any of this secretly or forcibly without sacrilege.

The Roman Church, being the principal of all the other churches, received a share of the alms of the faithful, sufficiently large to render the Pope equal to the immense calls of his spiritual administration. Even during the persecutions of the Pagan Emperors, the Roman Church possessed considerable *landed* property. "She supported," says the historian Eusebius, "a great number of clerks, widows and orphans, and of the poor, while she propagated the faith and founded new Churches in the most distant countries." When Constantine became Emperor, he gave orders to *restore* to the clergy, says the same historian, "the houses, the possessions, the fields, the gardens, and other goods of which they had been unjustly deprived." The Church then held the right of possessing property, and this right is inherent in her and inalienable, and continues to the present day. To refuse the Church the right of possessing is to refuse her the right of existing; and the latter impious and deadly design inspires more or less all the systems hostile to ecclesiastical property.

Constantine bestowed throughout the whole empire, lands, houses, and many other rich offerings on the Church, which multiplied her alms and liberalities in proportion as her resources increased. The Emperor, in 330, removed the seat of empire from Rome to Byzantium—called after him, Constantinople. "The same precincts could not contain the Emperor and the Pontiff; Constantine yielded up Rome to the Pope. From that time we also observe that the emperors seem no longer at home in Rome; they resemble strangers passing through and lodging there from time to time. But what is still more surprising, Odoacer, with his Heruli, puts an end to the western empire in 575. Soon afterwards, the Heruli disappear before the Goths, and they in their turn give place to the Lombards, who take possession of the kingdom of Italy. What force was it which, for more than three centuries, prevented all these princes from fixing durably their throne at Rome? Whose was the arm which drove them to Milan, to Pavia, to Ravenna? He who cannot see here the finger of Providence must be blind indeed."

Several of the successors of Constantine were also very liberal in their donations to the Church, and we may say that all Christians vied with one another in their generosity towards the Holy See. We find by historical records that the Roman Church possessed, in the sixth century, extensive territories at Rome, in Naples, Dalmatia, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Spain, the Gauls and Africa. (See S. Greg. Vita. lib. II. cap. 53, &c.) By reading the history of these times, we find that then at least clergymen were not "the most incompetent persons in the world to have anything to do with the administration of secular affairs," for they were invested with several of the powers of the civil magistrates, and that too, from necessity, because they alone were "morally alive and vigorous." I would respectfully call the attention of our politicians to the following lucid remarks of M. Guizot, a Protestant, and one of the most eminent statesmen and historians of the age—remarks which evidently show that the civilization of Europe is much indebted to a body of men who are too often sneered at as the abettors of ignorance and the defenders of a spiritual tyranny. M. Guizot in his "Histoire generale de la Civilisation en Europe," p. 55, &c., says:—

"From the 5th century, the Christian clergy had powerful means of influence. The Bishops and clerks had become the chief municipal magistrates. The municipal system was, strictly speaking, all that remained of the Roman empire: such were the vexations of despotism, and the ruin of the cities, that the *curiales*, or members of the municipal corporations, had fallen into discouragement and apathy.

The bishops, on the contrary, and the priests, full of life and zeal, naturally offered themselves to superintend and manage everything. *It would be absurd to blame them for it, or to tax them with usurpation; the natural cause of things would have it so; the clergy alone was morally alive and vigorous; it became powerful everywhere; such is the law of the universe.* This revolution is traceable in all the legislation of the emperor at this period. If you open the Theodosian or Justinian code, you will find a great number of arrangements which charge the bishops and clergy with municipal affairs. And the Christian Church has powerfully contributed, since that time, to the development of modern civilization.

It was a vast advantage in the midst of the deluge of material force which at that epoch inundated society. *If the Christian Church had not been in existence, the whole world would have been abandoned to pure material force.* The Church alone exercised a moral power. But she did more; she kept up and diffused the idea of a rule, of a law superior to all human laws; she professed the belief, essential to the safety of humanity, that there is, above all human laws, a law called, according to times and customs, sometimes *reason* sometimes the *divine law*, but which, in all times and places, is the same law under different names."

The Church placed on her estates her own colonists, christian and civilized men, who thus introduced into Europe the first seeds of Christian civilization and freedom. The moderation and indulgence with which the Popes treated their dependents made men desirous of enjoying their protection. M. Guizot says:—"It is easy to understand why people were at that time eager to place themselves under the dominion of the Church; lay proprietors were certainly far from shewing like solicitude for the well being of the occupants of their dominion." It appears there was no Bishop Plunket in those days. Gibbon says:—"The want of laws could only be supplied by the influence of religion, and their sovereign and domestic councils were moderated by the authority of the Bishop. His alms, his sermons, his correspondence with the kings of the west, his secret services, their gratitude and oath, accustomed the Romans to consider him as the first magistrate or prince of the city." The same historian still speaking of the Popes, declares that "Their temporal dominion is now confirmed by the reverence of a thousand years; and their noblest title is the free choice of a people whom they had redeemed from slavery." Sismondi, who is as free from partiality as Gibbon, says that "the increasing power of these Pontiffs in the city of Rome was founded on the most respectable of all titles, virtues and benefits."

When the Roman empire was declining, and the numerous hordes of barbarians from the north were destroying, with fire and sword, everything before them, the only power which seemed capable of saving the wreck of civilization from utter ruin was the Papacy. In connection with this assertion I may mention the magnanimity displayed by the pious Leo when he went forth alone to confront the barbarian king, and, by dint of his energetic protestation, checked the tide of northern invasion, and saved Rome from destruction. The infidel Gibbon records the heroic conduct and successful appeal of the illustrious Pope in these words:

"And Leo, Bishop of Rome, consented to expose his life for the safety of his flock. The genius of Leo was exercised and displayed in the public misfortunes, and he has deserved the appellation of "great" by the successful zeal with which he laboured to establish his opinions and his authority under the venerable names of orthodox faith and ecclesiastical discipline. The *pressing eloquence of Leo, his majestic appearance*, and sacerdotal robes, exacted the veneration of Attila for the spiritual father of the Christians." In a few years after the death of Attila, Rome was *again* saved by Leo. The same historian says:—"Genseric boldly advanced from the port of Ostia to the gates of the defenceless city. Instead of a sally of the Roman youth, there issued from the gates an unarmed and venerable procession of the Bishop, at the head of his clergy. The fearless spirit of Leo, his authority and eloquence again mitigated the fierceness of a barbarian conqueror. The king of the Vandals promised to spare the unresisting multitude, to protect the buildings from fire, and to exempt the captives from torture."

In the eighth century the Lombards, then a barbarous nation, invaded a portion of the Papal dominions—but Pepin le Bref, King of France, crossed the Alps, drove them out of the Pope's dominions, and restored the invaded territory to the Holy Father. Towards the end of the same century the Lombards again invaded the same territory, but they were soon expelled therefrom by Charlemagne, who, not content with confirming the donations of his father, Pepin, went to Rome, gave the Pope the most touching marks of respect, "made his chaplain Etherius, draw up a far more ample act of donation, by which he secured forever to the Holy See the exarchate of Ravenna, the Island of Corsica, the provinces of Parma, Mantua, Venice, and Istria, with the duchies of Spoleto and Beneventum. The King signed this donation with his own hand, and caused it to be signed also by the Bishops, Abbots, Dukes, and Counts who accompanied him; after which he laid it on the Altar of St. Peter, and, with all the French chiefs, took an oath to preserve to the Holy See the states which he had solemnly restored to it." Thus to Charlemagne belongs the glory of founding definitively, under Providence, the temporal sovereignty of the Holy See.

From the sketch which I have given you may see that the temporal power of the Pope is not of yesterday; that it was not founded by violence or usurpation, intrigue or bloodshed; but on the contrary that it is, according to the avowal even of adversaries, one of the most venerable governments in existence; that it has the very best of titles, and that the Popes ruled in the affections of their people. And it is this venerable sovereignty, apparently established by Providence, that demagogues, anarchists, assassins, and their numerous friends and abettors, are strenuously endeavouring to completely destroy. I purpose to give, on a future occasion, the reasons why Catholics wish it to be preserved. In the mean time I remain, Sir,

Your humble servant,

A. MACDONALD.

St. Dunstan's College, Feb. 13, 1861.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—Having observed an article in the last *Examiner*, where John Kelly, of Georgetown, Shoemaker, tries to stab his awl with much vindictiveness against me in particular, as one of the Commissioners of Small Debts for Lot 49.

He says, "Having been doing a small business in Georgetown, for the past year, I had occasion to sue some parties to the last Small Debt Court at Lot 49, at which Court Messrs. J. R. Bourke, Haszard and McRae preside. During the sitting of the Court one of the defendants went forward to confess the amount of debt sued for, when Mr. Bourke would not allow the confession, and expressly said it was not fair; thereby meaning, I suppose, that he would lose his share of the judgment fee. I stated it was customary in the Georgetown Court to make confession, and I believe it was legal and did not wish any unnecessary expenses put on the defendant, who was a poor man; on which Mr. Bourke ordered me out of Court, and ordered one of the Bailiffs of the Court to put me out."

In the first place, I would beg to remark, that the Commissioners and Clerk sit at one table; the Clerk being occupied in taking down a judgment, when Mr. Kelly and Mr. Sabine came up, one on each side of the Clerk, and were drawing the Clerk's attention from what he was engaged with. I said it was not fair to interrupt the Court when engaged on other business; I told him to attend to the business he had in hand, and not to be interrupted. My reason being, that some mistake having heretofore arisen through taking off the attention of the Clerk when recording judgment, as in a similar instance the Court before, when there was time given to defendant, which time was not recorded in consequence of interruption. When the legal time was elapsed, execution was granted to plaintiff, which put the defendant to cost and trouble, he not been prepared and did not consider it due at the time, and wishing to prevent a like occurrence was the reason I objected; and not for my share of the judgment, as stated by Mr. Kelly. I positively deny mentioning a word of refusing to take confession; therefore, what Mr. Kelly thought I meant, and he supposed, falls to the ground.

But as he has mentioned it was customary in Georgetown to take confessions, this I know, that when I was last there, I heard one of the late Commissioners publickly state from the Bench, that no confessions would be taken after the Court sat, and which the late Clerk is well aware of. Again, I am credibly informed that the Commissioners of the Small Debt Court in Charlottetown object to the Clerk of that Court taking confessions after the Court sits, for reasons as above assigned by me.

As to my calling upon the Bailiff to put Mr. Kelly out, it was for contempt of Court, which of course I consider I had reason for, from language made use of by him. Had I known at the time that he was a Knight of the Awl, I may have been more courteous to him.

As to any other remarks made by Mr. Kelly, I treat them with that contempt I consider them worthy of.

Now, Mr. Editor, the fact is this, the reason Mr. Kelly points his deadly weapons at me, is. Mr. Kelly sued Mr Gallespie the same day, in which case my brother Commissioners and myself differed in opinion. Judgment was given against Gallespie, from which judgment Gallespie appealed, for which Mr. Kelly blamed me. I here rest my defence. Hoping you will pardon my troubling you,

I remain, yours, &c.,

J. R. BOURKE.

Mill Vue, February 22d, 1861.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Mr. Editor,—"The period being arrived," to use the first words in the introductory sentence in the speech of His Excellency George Dundas, Esqr., delivered last Thursday, as they neatly flow for the publication of your weekly Journal, permit me to congratulate the highly educated and constitutional advisers of our Lieut. Governor on the most astounding production they placed in His Excellency's hands for delivery at the opening of the Legislature last week.

The readiest way, may be, to enjoy the truly expressive, sensible and cleverly founded paragraphs that form the entire speech alluded to, is to examine them seriatim; but as some of them only tend, politely speaking, to self-damn the despicable crew that form the Executive of this Island, and expose their total incapacity to legislate for the good of their fellow-colonists in any one particular, either religiously, socially, financially, or sensibly, as indeed was more fully shewn during the debate held in the House of Assembly on the answer to the Lieut. Governor's speech the day before yesterday, I will only beg your leave to point out a few grammatical errors and other blunders in this strange piece of composition, which would disgrace [illegible]

What renewing a census may mean, not knowing, can't say; it may possibly come under the same category as "loan bills and like visionary schemes," (*vide* the Lieut. Governor's answer to an address from some inhabitants of Belfast, some few days since.)

Fancy if a decent but dog-poor, wood-hewing, water-drawing, Priest-ridden ignoramus son of a Monaghan were to propose to his fellow beings to assist him in supporting the Volunteer movement, and thus add to a Military force, in the same sentence in which he announced the fact that the said force had no existence, it might be excusable to playfully ask him—"holloa Pat, which way did your ball run?" but for a high-born, gentle-bred, Kirk-attending son of a pure Scotch Laird to be forced by one of his Island bred louts of Councillors to perpetrate in public such an error, is positively unpardonable.

What the amount of the "patriotic feeling" as regards the Volunteer movement, what prevails at home may be, we may wisely leave in the hands of our next new Scotch Professor, when he comes, and our Executive "Councillor whatever" to define. But all these gross inaccuracies and ungrammatical slip slops are totally eclipsed by the somewhat equivocal compliment paid to those "honest manly" yeomen of Belfast who have so "creditably" paid the deposit of the just debts to the Government they purchased, or rather agreed to purchase, their farms from, and failing the due payment of which the said subject of admiration and praise could not legally, at this moment, call their holdings their own, or clear or crop their acres next spring. O happy Colonist! O funny Councillor who can swallow this pretty compliment, and cause your Lieut. Governor to breathe such high-toned sentiments.

The touching delicacy of the consideration in not alluding to the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to our shores last summer till the close of the speech, is quite worthy of the loyal, God-fearing scholar who deems it necessary to laud a few honest Scotchmen sky high for paying part of their just debts, and is blind to the fool he is making of *himself* in causing our Queen's Representative to utter such stupid bulls, laughable errors, false compliments, and childish absurdities as grace the speech of Geo. Dundas, Esqr.

"Blush Caledonia, such thy son could be,
England, I joy no child he was of thine"

Yours, AN ENGLISHMAN.

Monday, February 25, 1861.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

JOHN WESLEY'S ESTIMATE OF "GOOD QUEEN BESS."

Extracted from his Journal, Vol. 4th, page 352, April, 1768.

Friday 29th—I read over an extremely sensible book, but one that surprised me much. It is, "an inquiry into the proofs of the charges commonly advanced against Mary Queen of Scotland." By means of original papers, he has made it more clear than one would imagine it possible at this distance:—1st. That she was altogether innocent of the murder of Lord Darnley, and no way privy to it:—2nd, That she married Lord Bothwell, (then nearly seventy-years old, herself but four-and-twenty) from the pressing instance of the nobility in a body, who at the same time assured her. "He was innocent of the King's murder:"—3rd, That Murray, Morton and Lethington themselves contrived that murder, in order to charge it upon her, as well as forged those vile letters and sonnets, which they palmed upon the world for hers." "But how then can we account for the quite contrary story which has been almost universally received?" Most easily. It was penned and published in French, English and Latin, (by Queen Elizabeth's order), by George Buchanan, who was Secretary to Lord Murray, and in Queen Elizabeth's pay. So he was sure to throw dirt enough; nor was she at liberty to answer for herself. "But what then was Queen Elizabeth?" As just and merciful as Nero, and as good a Christian as Mahomet."

The above is particularly recommended to the candid consideration of J. B. Cooper and his *yellow* correspondents, under the idea that he and they will admit that the Reverend and venerable author is, at the least, a "respectable Protestant authority." E. E.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir—A good deal has appeared in the papers lately about land purchase and a loan; but Mr. Palmer's letter shows that the Government have gone far enough that way already. When a Loan could not be obtained from England to purchase forfeited land without investigating the titles, it was high time for our Government to stop purchasing here. But when we asked for a Commission to settle the Land Question, why make any purchase at all? to comply in *appearance* with the wishes of Ministers, and show them by *acts* that the Commission was not wanted.

When we agreed to have a Commission, that agreement meant to place the whole settlement of the Land Question in the hands of the Imperial Government. It is true, we nominated one Commissioner, and the proprietors another; but the three were equally appointed by the Imperial Government without any such distinction; and to that Government they are answerable to return their whole proceedings.

As to what report the Commissioners may give in, or what decision they may come to, I could not hazard an opinion. But I may state some of the questions which will engage their attention, and for a satisfactory solution of which they may have to apply to the Imperial Government for further evidence, and for law advice; for it is not likely that any decision will be given which might be disputed hereafter.

The original grants declare that unless they are settled with foreign Protestants the lands shall revert to the Crown: and the question will be, has the length of time elapsed, or any act of authority taken place since, which would annul or alter the conditions of the grants?

To comply with the petitions of the inhabitants sent home, the King in Council, in 1802, ordered the forfeited lands to be escheated; and accordingly an Act was passed by our Legislature in 1803 for that purpose. But as this Act is said to have been mislaid at the Colonial Office, and the marginal note in our Statute Book anent that Act falsified by the Attorney General of that day, the question arises, will the negligence at the Colonial Office, and the corruption of the Crown Law Officer here deprive the inhabitants of the benefit of that law?

But in the event of a compromise with the proprietors, the arrears of Quit Rent and proprietors' right to the Fishery Reserves will be considered, and then the terms of settlement for the tenantry adjusted.

The people should bear in mind that the whole question for the settlement of the tenantry is in the hands of the Imperial Government; and they may rest assured that the Act which was passed last session, to confirm the award of the Commissioners, will not receive the Royal assent until the award is investigated and approved of by the Imperial Government.

The proprietors knew well before the last election that Ministers had made up their minds to have the Land Question settled; therefore a Political Alliance was instituted to pledge one another to contribute and distribute money—to propose the Bible question, and that no office-holders should hold a seat in the Assembly. Anything that would take the public attention to return a Proprietary Government, who would have it in their power to retard the settlement of the Land Question and make it favourable to themselves; but I believe that notwithstanding the drawback of the Proprietary Government, the Commissioners have had sufficient evidence to enable them to understand the case; and that they will do justice towards the settlement of the Land Question, although their correspondence with the Colonial Office to obtain evidence, and perhaps opinions on points of law, will require time.

Wm. COOPER.

Sailor's Hope, February 8, 1861.

PUBLIC MEETING AT WEST POINT.

At a meeting held at Lot 8 School House, for the purpose of taking into consideration the practicability and propriety of building a Public Wharf on the South side of West Point, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1st. Moved by Milleage Beckwith, seconded by John Cousins—

Resolved, That as there is at present no Wharf or safe landing along this Western Shore, for the distance of from 40 to 45, and vessels in trying to land goods are often delayed many days for want of a safe place to take in and discharge their cargoes, that it is the opinion of this meeting that, for the protection of the mariner, as well as for the benefit of the inhabitants of the North part of the Island, that a Petition be forwarded to the House of Assembly when in Session, calling their attention particularly to this object, and soliciting a grant sufficient, with the amount that shall be subscribed by the inhabitants, to build said Wharf,

2d. Moved by Jos. McLaren, seconded by John Stuart—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that a good and substantial Wharf might be built on the South side of West Point at the expense of £1000, which would be in no danger of breaking up by storm; and also that there are 16 feet of water at the distance of 225 yards from the bank at low water.

3d. Moved by David McWilliams, seconded by John McNeil—

Resolved, That in consequence of no harbor or safe landing, we are deprived of any direct communication by water to the Main Land or elsewhere, thereby incurring great detriment to the prosperity of this portion of the Island.

4th. Moved by Strang Hart, seconded by Samuel Dunville—

Resolved, That the great facility offered for steam communication from New Brunswick to this part of the Island, the distance being about 25 miles from Shediac Railroad terminus to West Point, has already claimed the attention of directors of steamers, inasmuch that they are most desirous that a safe landing may be erected, and would readily co-operate with us in carrying forward this worthy object.

5th. Moved by Jeremiah Short, seconded by Jas. Dunville—

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolutions be sent to the *Islander* and *Examiner* newspapers for publication.

Mr. Milleage Beckwith, the first speaker, rose and stated, that as he had lately had an interview with the Directors of the Steamer "Princess Royal," who expressed their desire that a Wharf would shortly be built on the Western Shore of this Island, it being so advantageously situated for steamers to ply from the New Brunswick shores, and that they would willingly co-operate with us in carrying out this much to be desired object, by subscribing an amount towards erecting a Wharf. He also showed the advantages that the inhabitants of the North part of the Island would derive from having a safe landing at the West Point. We would immediately have steam communication between this part and New Brunswick, and trade would be created, and farmers would find ready sale for their produce at a fair remuneration; and instead of being, as we are at present, far removed from anything like a market, there would be ready sale for produce at our doors.

The Chairman then rose, and in order to elicit information in regard to the practicability of building a Wharf on the South side of West Point, enquired of many of the oldest residents whether they considered the scheme practicable, all of whom expressed their opinion in the affirmative.

Capt. Neil McPherson, a man of great practical experience in sailing round the Western shore, gave as his opinion, that a good substantial Wharf might be built at the cost of about £1000, and that there is good holding ground, and a good depth of water a short distance from shore on South side West Point; and during the heavy gale that occurred last Fall, he rode the gale out in safety with one anchor and 40 fathoms chain.

Mr. Strang Hart then rose and said, that as it appeared by what had already been stated, and the information elicited, that the practicability of building a Wharf at West Point was undisputed; and we have had the opinion of Mr. Neil McPherson, a practical man, who states that a Wharf would stand. Now, having established these facts, he would show to this meeting our geographical position, which gives us advantages that can never be possessed by the opposite side of the Island—Cascumpec. At the place which you, gentlemen, contemplate building the Wharf at the South side of West Point, on reference to charts, you will find that it is situated only about 25 miles from the Shediac Railroad terminus; whereas the distance from said Railroad terminus to Cascumpec, is a out 85 miles, which route, for a steamer, would be very expensive, and would also be very dangerous in the Fall season of the year. Now, said he, if we from this part of the Island wish to take passage, or ship any produce by steamer, we have first to go to Cascumpec, or convey our grain say 15 or 16 miles to that place, and pay freight or passage for a distance of some 60 miles to come back to where you contemplate building the Wharf; whereas had we a wharf, the people of the Cascumpec side would be travelling through on a direct route, which, instead of being a disadvantage, would be a very great advantage to them. And as they are a very enterprising people, a new road would soon be opened leading from Cascumpec to West Point, by the shortest possible way.

A Committee was then appointed to solicit subscriptions in aid of building said Wharf, and also to Petition the House of Assembly to aid in this object.

A vote of thanks being given to the Chairman, the meeting dismissed.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

ROBERT McDONALD, Chairman.

February, 1861.

THE LAND QUESTION—PUBLIC MEETING AT TIGNISH.

At a numerous meeting of the tenants and other residents of Lot One and Two, held at the house of Mr. Joseph Richard, on the 12th inst., Mr. Francis Buotte in the Chair, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

Moved by Mr. Thomas J. Caie, and seconded by Mr. Patrick Pace: *Resolved*, That whereas the tenantry in this neighbourhood have been in the confident hope, from the recommendation of the Land Commission, that no action would be taken by the proprietors for arrears of rent; but the said recommendation has not been carried out, as several distraints have been made in this locality for rent during the present winter, by the Messrs. Palmer; and that no less than the half of the arrears would be taken by the Bailiff; and the tenantry are of opinion that unless the House of Assembly will take some action to stay all proceedings between landlord and tenant, until the Commissioners make their final award, that the proprietors will exact the arrears now due, if the said award be long delayed: *Resolved*, therefore, that a Petition be sent to the House of Assembly in its next Session praying the House to pass a law, or take some action so as to prevent the proprietors distraining for rent or arrears of rent, preceding the award of the Commissioners.

Proposed by Mr. Hubert Gaudet, and seconded by Mr. Prosper Gallant:

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolutions be sent to the *Islander* and *Examiner* newspapers for publication.

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