

in England, which only could have been properly answered by referring to them: but now it is said, oh, we are too poor to undertake it! He would ask them, if that was a good answer to give to a gentleman desirous of emigrating? Whether would such an answer have a tendency to induce or to deter men of wealth to settle among you? Then would any man of intelligence hesitate for a single moment, or consent to retard the prosperity of his country, for so pitiful a sum? Away with so pitiful an idea. He sincerely hoped their Honours would see the necessity for passing a Bill, the advantages arising from which would infinitely outweigh the trifling expense attending it.

The Hon. Mr. ANDERSON agreed with the hon. Solicitor General, and in addition to the advantage he had mentioned to be derived from a Census, it would show what lands were settled, and what were unsettled—and it would be useful for many other purposes.

The Hon. Mr. HENSLEY understood that his hon. friend (Mr. Swabey) objected principally on its being taken at this unseasonable time, and he must say that he himself would have liked it better, if it had been delayed until the distress that at present unfortunately existed had passed away. He was of opinion, that it would absorb between 300*l* and 400*l* of the public money—and that two or three years after this, it would be time enough to take it—he said so, not because he intended to vote against, or throw out the Bill, but ten years was the usual interval that was allowed to elapse, before such things were taken again—and they should, above all things, studiously avoid falling into expenses, because he entertained no doubt whatever, there would be a great decrease this year in the revenue.

The Hon. Mr. HOLL certainly thought it a duty incumbent on them never to lose sight of the expenditure—they had already had a great struggle, and he thought they had accomplished a great thing in checking the lavish expenditure of past times. It was generally thought, there would be a falling off in our revenue this year, and therefore it was necessary to bear this in mind. In England, 10 years was the usual term to take a Census of the population, and make up their statistics. He confessed he could not see the urgent necessity for taking a Census at the present time—it was better to err on the safe side, than to encourage a lavish expenditure.

The Hon. Mr. YOUNG was then allowed to withdraw his motion.

### House of Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12.

#### THE EMBARGO QUESTION.

The Hon. Mr. COLES, in calling the attention of the House to the reports of distress which reached them from all parts of the Country, observed—the old saying, extreme cases require extreme remedies, was not inapplicable to the present state of the country. An Embargo, Sir, is an extreme remedy for the distress which now prevails; but it is one that is absolutely necessary. It is well known, Sir, that I have been always opposed to measures that placed restrictions upon trade. In principle I am still opposed to any such measures. From motives of expediency and necessity I now advocate an Embargo. I am convinced there is not Grain enough in the hands of the farmers to supply them with seed, and I am strengthened in this conviction by the fact, that farmers have been frequently seen in town during the present Spring purchasing Grain instead of selling it. Of all others, the potatoe crop appears to have become the most uncertain, and from this circumstance I have been often inclined to think that it would be more advantageous for poor settlers to discontinue planting such a crop, and turn their attention to the growth of other and more certain produce—or at least to refrain from planting to such an extent as they have heretofore done. Oats have generally turned out a safe and certain crop, and, when manufactured, becomes an article of food of the most wholesome description, and greatly superior to Potatoes; besides, from the Oats we have manure to enrich the land—from the potatoes, none. It is painful to listen, from day to day, to the representations of distress which prevails in the several Districts of the Island; nor is the scarcity confined to the poorer class of farmers; many who have been shippers of produce in former years, are suffering now as well as their poorer neighbours. Without the interposition of the Legislature to prevent exportation, thousands must be reduced to great hardships—and these hardships must be felt with more than double severity next year, if but very small crops be put into the ground during the present one. I entertain, Sir, a due sense of the responsibility I incur, in thus interfering with the commercial transactions of the country, and I shall deeply regret if the action to be taken by this House on the question

now under consideration result in any serious losses to those merchants who have purchased agricultural produce for exportation. But I do not think there is much reason to apprehend that loss will fall upon the merchants. In the neighbouring Provinces Grain commands at present comparatively low prices, and from the demand which the present scarcity creates for it in this Island, holders of Produce may safely calculate upon obtaining remunerating prices in this Colony. It is true, some inconvenience may be entailed upon persons who may be under an obligation to supply their agents or correspondents with agricultural produce, if an Embargo Bill receive the sanction of the Legislature and the Governor; but the apprehension of any such inconvenience to private individuals ought not to deter the House of Assembly from the discharge of their duty. Persons in affluent or comfortable circumstances should not hesitate to make some sacrifices for the general good. In preparing the Bill, should the Committee agree to the principle, it will, no doubt, be necessary to insert a clause, to prohibit the use and manufacture of grain in the Distilleries of the Island. In advocating a measure of this kind, it will be seen that I am prepared to make some sacrifices myself; for, though at all times deeply impressed with a sense of the necessity of giving every encouragement and assistance to agriculturists, I believe there was scarcely ever such a season of scarcity as that with which our population are now contending, and I believe that the House are now imperatively called upon to adopt a measure—extreme as it may be—that will not only serve to alleviate partially the present distress, but prevent much greater suffering from scarcity during the next winter and spring. [The hon. gentleman concluded by moving a resolution in favour of an Embargo.]

Mr. PALMER thought there was no necessity for debating this question. He did not suppose there would be any opposition to an Embargo, for all parties appeared to be convinced of its necessity; and the sooner the Bill received the concurrence of the Legislature the better.

The hon. SPEAKER said—The hon. member for Charlottetown is much mistaken if he thinks there will be no opposition to the measure contemplated in the resolution just submitted. I, for one, am not convinced of its necessity. The hon. member for Queen's County (Mr. Coles) has told us that the merchant can sustain no loss by being compelled to sell his Grain in this Island, but rather a gain. I cannot, Sir, understand this mode of arguing the question. His statement seems to imply, that our merchants would rather trade out of the Colony at a disadvantage, than in it at a profit. This is so contrary to the principles upon which business men conduct their affairs in this Island, that I think they will not be likely to agree with the hon. member. The reasoning of the hon. member is, in fact, opposed to the measure. With respect to the quantity of seed grain in the Island, I believe I have as great facilities of knowing its probable amount as any other member of this hon. House; and I am of opinion that there is sufficient grain in the country at present in the hands of those who generally hold it, to enable the farmers to put the usual quantity into the ground for this year's crop. Let the grain go, however high the price may be, no apprehensions need be felt as to the result. We have taken off the impost duties on flour and other bread stuffs; let us then allow exportation of grain, and let it be to whatever extent it may, the price will enable the people to purchase those things which they stand the most in need, that is Flour, Indian Meal, and other such articles of food; and this will benefit the last year's immigrants in particular. So many things, Sir, crowd upon my mind bearing against the question, that it is almost impossible for me to enumerate them. There is one thing, however, which strikes me very forcibly, and that is the injustice which this measure, if carried, would inflict upon those mercantile establishments in the neighbouring provinces, whose agents here, it is well known, greatly to the benefit of this Colony, buy up much of our produce, during the winter months, for shipment in the spring. Were there no other objections bearing upon my mind against the question, this consideration alone would be almost sufficient to induce me to oppose it; at any rate I should require much better proof of its necessity than any that has been adduced. Let the House look to the practice of other countries in times of scarcity, and we

shall find that it is generally met by grants of money and very rarely by an embargo. No, Sir, they know too well the injurious effects to trade and commerce, which generally arise from so extreme a measure, to have recourse to it without the most evident and urgent necessity. I once, Sir, fearlessly took upon myself the responsibility of defeating such a proposition by my casting vote; and I believe I conferred a great benefit on the community by so doing. The reasons which I then assigned for my vote, were precisely such as those by which I am now influenced; and I venture to predict that it will be found that the judgment which I have formed upon the question, is a sound one.

(To be continued.)

### THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1848.

#### Late and Important News from Europe.

The first English Mail for the present month was received from Pictou at an early hour this morning. The excitement and disturbances in Europe have rather increased than abated. The waves of the French Revolution, in their onward sweep, have not left a firmly-fixed throne on the Continent,—some have been tumbling with as much ease and rapidity as if they had been a set of ninepins, while others are shaking and ready to fall with the first vigorous blast. War has been declared against Austria by Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, who has taken up the cause of the Lombards and Venetians, in their struggle with the Austrians. This intervention of Sardinia in the affairs of Lombardy and Venice has excited very deep interest throughout Europe, as being the first interference of one Power in the internal concerns of another, during the prevailing continental commotions.—France is comparatively quiet. The attention of the nation was fixed upon the approaching election of a National Assembly, for which the most extensive preparations were made.—In England the Chartist agitation has recommenced with increased vigour. An immense meeting and procession was advertised to take place, preparatory to the presentation of a Petition to Parliament, signed by about five millions of people; but Government issued a proclamation forbidding the assemblage.—In Ireland public excitement was intense, and warlike preparations were the order of the day: Government pouring military into every section of the country, and the extreme section of the Repeal party organizing their followers, and providing them with arms. No actual disturbance had occurred up to the time of the Steamer's departure from Liverpool; but judging from the ferment in which the country is described to be, a fearful collision is almost inevitable, and not distant. Many persons of note and rank—hitherto averse to, or lukewarm in, the cause of Repeal—have given in their adhesion to the Confederation or War Party.

#### STATE OF IRELAND.

On the order of the day, in the House of Commons, April 3—Lord Jocelyn, having expressed his indignation and disgust at the language used by certain traitors in Ireland, avowedly with the object of overturning existing institutions, and of levying war against her Majesty, and having denounced those individuals who, dead to their own and the national honour, had gone over to a foreign country to solicit arms to carry out their traitorous designs, asked the Government whether they had sufficient powers in their hands to crush these traitors, and if not, whether they were prepared to ask Parliament for the required measures.

Lord John Russell replied that it was quite true that language exciting to rebellion against the Crown and exciting the people to acts of violence against persons and property, with the view of making Ireland a separate and independent nation, had been used in Ireland. Such language might sometimes be passed over as the ravings of distempered fancies; but, unfortunately, the present was not a time when it could be allowed to go unnoticed. Partly on account of the excitable nature of those to whom this language was addressed, partly on account of the great distress which the people had endured for the last three years, and which naturally induced them to listen to anything suggested in the way of a remedy, and partly on account of the events passing in France and other countries, this language had been followed by the manufacture of pikes and of rifle guns; and it was avowed openly by the public press that a civil war was the object of these preparations. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland had a difficult and delicate duty to perform, but he was determined to put down disorder and rebellion, and to protect the loyal and industrious from the machinations of those who are