

## POETRY.

## THE BLIND BOY.

It was a blessed summer day,  
The flowers bloom'd—the air was mild,  
The little birds pour'd forth their lay,  
And every thing in nature smiled.

In pleasant thoughts I wandered on  
Beneath the deep wood's ample shade,  
Till suddenly I came upon  
Two children who had thither stray'd.

Just at an aged birch tree's foot  
A little boy and girl reclin'd,  
His hands in hers she kindly put,  
And then I saw the boy was blind.

The children knew not I was near;  
A tree conceal'd me from her view;  
But all they said I well could hear,  
And I could see all they might do.

"Dear Mary," said the poor blind boy,  
"That little bird sings very long;  
Say, do you see him in his joy,  
And is he pretty as his song?"

"Yes, Edward, yes," replied the maid,  
"I see the bird on yonder tree;"  
The poor boy sigh'd, and gently said,  
"Sister, I wish that I could see."

"The flowers, you say, are very fair,  
And bright green leaves are on the trees,  
And pretty birds are singing there—  
How beautiful for one who sees!"

"Yes, I the fragrant flowers can smell,  
And I can feel the green leaf's shade,  
And I can hear the notes that swell  
From those dear birds that God has made."

"So, sister, God to me is kind,  
Though sight He has not given;  
But tell me, are there any blind  
Among the children up in Heaven?"

"No, dearest Edward, there all see—  
But why ask me a thing so odd?"  
"Oh, Mary, He's so good to me,  
I thought I'd like to look at God."

Ever long disease his hand had laid,  
On that dear boy so meek and mild;  
His widow'd mother wept and pray'd  
That God would spare her sightless child.

He felt her warm tears on his face,  
And said—"Oh, never weep for me,  
I'm going to a bright—bright place  
Where Mary says I God shall see."

"And you'll be there, dear Mary, too;  
But, mother, when you get up there,  
Tell Edward, mother, that 'tis you—  
You know I never saw you here."

He spoke no more, but sweetly smiled,  
Until the final blow was given—  
When God took up the poor blind child,  
And open'd first his eyes in Heaven.

## THE MURMUR OF THE SHELL.

BY THE HON. MRS. NORTON.

A sailor left his native land,  
A simple gift he gave,  
A sea-shell gather'd by his hand,  
From out the rippling wave;  
Oh, love, by this remember me!  
Far inland thou must dwell—  
But thou shalt hear the sounding sea,  
In the murmur of the shell!

Ah, woe is me! with tatter'd sail  
The ship is wildly tost!  
A drowning cry is on the gale—  
They sink—and all are lost!  
While happy yet, untouched by fear,  
Repeating his farewell,  
Poor Mary smiles, and loves to hear  
The murmur of the shell.

The tidings wreck'd her simple brain:  
And smiling now she goes—  
A mad girl—reckless of her pain,  
Unconscious of her woes;  
But when they ring the village chimes,  
That toll'd her lover's knell,  
She sighs, and says she hears at times  
Death-music in the shell!

## SONNET.

The garden trees are busy with the shower  
That fell ere sunset; now methinks  
They talk,  
Lowly and sweetly as befits the hour,  
One to another down the grassy walk.  
Hark the laburnum from his opening  
flower,  
This cherry creeper greets in whisper  
light,  
While the grim fir, rejoicing in the  
night,  
Hearse mutters to the murmuring sycamore.  
What shall I deem their converse? would  
they hail  
The wild grey light that fronts yon  
massive cloud,  
Or the half bow, rising like pillared  
fire?  
Or are they sighing faintly for desire  
That with May dawn their leaves may  
be o'erflowed,  
And dew about their feet may never  
fail.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, April 15.

DEBATE ON THE CIVIL LIST BILL,  
CONDENSED BY REPORTER.

[Concluded.]

MR. WARBURTON, as Chairman of the  
whole House in Committee on the Civil  
List Bill, reported the Bill amended.

As the hon. Speaker was about to put  
the question on the Report, the hon. Sol.  
General moved in amendment.

"And be it enacted, That from and  
after the passing of this Act it shall not  
be competent for any Member of the  
House of Assembly to take or hold any  
Office of profit or emolument under the  
Government of this Colony, connected  
with the collection, receipt or expendi-  
ture of the Public Revenues, except the  
Offices of Colonial Secretary, Attorney  
General, and Solicitor General."

MR. COLES said, that to adopt the am-  
endment, submitted by the hon. Sol. Ge-  
neral, would be a direct infraction of the  
rights of the people. The people and  
their representatives had long been con-  
tending for a practical acknowledgment  
of the rights of the people to have the  
Executive Council so constructed, that it  
should be upheld by public confidence;  
and that, through such a Council, they  
should have a voice in the election or ap-  
pointment of public servants. But should  
the elective voice of the people be so re-  
stricted, that they could not send to the  
Assembly, as their representatives, any  
man holding office under Government;

they might very frequently be denied the  
privilege of the electing, for one of their  
representatives in the Assembly the very  
man whom they desired to prefer to that  
honor before any other. Instead of secur-  
ing to them the full privilege for which  
they and their representatives had so  
long contended, and which was now won;  
were they to adopt the principle laid down  
in that Resolution, the House would, at  
once, destroy the labour of years and of  
their own hands and say to the people,

"We have indeed won the battle, and  
may have all we have been fighting for;  
but we now think that neither you nor we  
are deserving of the privileges with which  
victory might invest us; and we will,  
therefore, render nugatory all the advan-  
tages; and by circumscribing both your  
privileges and our own, deny to you the  
right to exercise a free, unfettered, and  
constitutional choice in the election of  
your representatives in the Legislature;  
and, thereby, deprive you of a voice in  
the Government; and of all power, either  
to confirm by your sanction, or annul by  
your disapprobation, all appointments to  
the most important of the Public Offices."

No exercise of the hon. and learned mem-  
ber's persuasive powers could, however,  
induce the majority to pursue the retro-  
grade course indicated by his Resolution;  
they were determined to move onwards;  
so, therefore, he might as well desist  
from all attempts to impede their progress,  
or to turn them aside from their object—  
the full establishment of the people's  
rights, and the complete overthrow of the  
obstructive faction.

HON. SOL. GENERAL said, the Assem-  
bly ought to be pure and unsuspected,  
and, to that end, members should owe  
their seats therein to the free and pure  
exercise of the elective franchise, and  
not to the power, which men in, or about  
to be in office might possess, of buying the  
support or suffrages of individuals at el-  
ections by an abuse of the influence pos-  
sessed by them as officials. Officers  
directly connected with the receipt or ex-  
penditure of the public money, ought to  
be excluded from the House of Assembly;  
because their admission into that body,  
who are, in fact, the general auditors of  
public accounts, would tend to produce  
corruption, in as much as public officers,  
if members of the House, would be-  
come the scrutinizers of each others's  
official monetary transactions; and so  
circumstanced, their mutual security  
could not be above suspicion. It was  
the duty of honorable members, as they  
valued their own purity and public repu-  
tation, to guard against the admission of  
any such principles in the construction or  
composition of the House, as might open  
the doors to corruption; and, influenced  
by such a motive, he had submitted his  
amendment. If such public officers as  
those whom he sought to exclude, were  
allowed to become members of the House,  
their admission would have a tendency to  
produce corruption. The amendment  
which he proposed, was the only safe-  
guard to which they could have recourse;  
and, should they reject it, the conse-  
quences would be, that the sphere of its in-  
fluence, gradually extending, the major  
part of the Assembly would be drawn with-  
in the sweep of its absorption, and all  
would be found in a circle of corruption.

MR. WHELAN said, the conduct of the  
minority strongly reminded him of the  
story of the "Dog in the Manger." They  
were now convinced, that it would be  
quite impossible for them any longer to  
retain both their official honors and emol-  
uments and their seats in the Assembly;  
and they, therefore, had made up their  
minds to strive, to the utmost of their  
power, even although they knew it would  
be in vain, to exclude the majority from  
those advantages which they could no  
longer enjoy themselves. The amend-  
ment submitted by the Hon. Sol. General  
was tantamount to a declaration, that a  
member of the Assembly, holding a pub-  
lic office of emolument, could not be hon-  
est. Surely the honorable member had  
overlooked this evident interpretation of  
his amendment and the application which  
might be made of it to himself and the  
honorable members on his right and left.  
Mr. Longworth, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Hav-  
iland. He (Mr. Whelan) was very far  
from saying that the circumstance of  
those gentlemen, in being, or in having  
been, in the receipt of the emoluments of  
public offices at the same time that they  
were members of Assembly, had render-  
ed them corrupt or dishonest; but he wish-  
ed to show how very dangerous the appli-  
cation of the arguments of the Hon. Sol.  
General, if admitted, would prove both to  
himself and to his friends. The best safe-  
guard for the public honesty of officials  
being members of the Assembly, was that  
they could hold neither their official ap-  
pointments nor their Legislative seats, un-  
less confirmed in both by the voice of the  
people; and in addition to this safeguard  
of the honesty of such officials, (he parti-  
cularly meant the Collector of Imposts  
and the Treasurer), were the securities  
which they had to give, before they could  
enter upon their offices. Indeed the checks  
imposed on such officials were the most  
efficient which could well be imagined;  
they were those of their accountability  
to the People, the Lieutenant Governor,  
and the Assembly. The cry first got up,  
long maintained, and scarcely yet aban-  
doned, against the introduction of Res-  
ponsible Government into this Colony,  
was the absence of proper materials so  
far as regarded intelligence and respect-  
ability, by which to carry it into effect.  
But the very working of the Responsible  
system would produce materials for its  
own support; for many who disregarded  
the barren honor of seats in the Legisla-  
ture, would henceforth press forward to  
obtain them, when it should once become  
apparent that the best recommendation to  
official or honorary appointments was prac-  
tically held to be the support and confi-

dence of the people. The Responsible  
System would thus produce a double sup-  
ply of the requisite materials, not only  
for the Legislature, but also for the Go-  
vernment and Public Offices. The hon.  
member concluded by saying, that in the  
present, as in all their former movements,  
to prevent or postpone the introduction of  
Responsible Government, the real aim  
and object of the minority was to keep  
themselves and their friends in office.

MR. POPE said the system, the introdu-  
ction of which the amendment of the Hon.  
Sol. General was intended to prevent, was  
that of the Parliament and Government of  
Great Britain. In Great Britain all pub-  
lic offices were in the hands, and at the  
disposal of the Government; and, in Par-  
liament, the Government was represented  
by salaried heads of departments, whose  
chief duty there was to propound the mea-  
sures, and support the general policy of  
the Government of which they themselves  
were the leading or principal members.  
The system of Responsible Government  
would work in precisely the same man-  
ner in this Colony; and it was idle and  
absurd to assert that public men, so cir-  
cumstanced, were more likely to be hon-  
est in England, than others placed in si-  
milar circumstances would be here. The  
restriction or exclusion proposed by the  
Hon. Sol. General's amendment, was not  
demanded by any demonstration of public  
sentiment; but the very reverse was the  
fact, for wherever public opinion had  
been tested, with respect to the proposi-  
tion laid down in that amendment, it had  
been decidedly opposed to it. And see-  
ing that it is not the wish of the people  
that they should adopt it, it would be very  
unwise in the House to pronounce their  
own condemnation by embracing it, and,  
thereby to deprive themselves of the ad-  
vantages and facilities which it would  
afford them in the construction and main-  
tenance of a popular government. Ac-  
cording to the Responsible System about  
to be introduced, no member of the As-  
sembly could accept of a Government  
appointment, if worth £50 a year with-  
out going back to his constituents, if he  
wished to keep both his appointment and  
his legislative seat. If they chose to re-  
elect him after his official appointment, he  
might retain both; if not, he could at  
most only retain his appointment, so  
long as the Government might think fit to  
continue him in it. The people were the  
only constitutional judges of the propriety  
of a man's taking office under Govern-  
ment, and at the same time, continuing to  
represent their interests in the Legisla-  
ture; and to them, in such a case, would  
be made, under the Responsible System,  
the appeal, and their judgement would be  
final.

MR. COLES then rose and said he would  
give the Hon. Sol. General credit for hav-  
ing fought so stoutly against the intro-  
duction of Responsible Government to the  
last. He had at least, been true to his  
colours. But he had been successfully  
driven from every position, offensive and  
defensive alike; and was, at length, as  
prostrated by defeat, that his proposed  
amendment to the Bill might be regarded  
as his last kick. The victory which the  
Liberal party in the Legislature had se-  
cured, was certainly complete and deci-  
sive; but it had not been obtained with-  
out prolonged and vigorous efforts. The  
friends of reform had, every where  
throughout the country, been withstood  
by the influences of the leading men in  
the Colony and in the Government; who,  
throughout the contest, as bound together  
by ties of family and ties of friendship,  
enjoying lucrative appointments and pos-  
sessed of all power and patronage, always  
occupied the vantage ground; but the  
union and determination of the reform-  
ers, and above all the good sense of the  
people, had, at length, overcome opposi-  
tion; and it was scarcely to be expected, in  
the very moment of victory the majority  
would throw away the very advantages  
for which they had been contending;  
and say to their opponents whom they  
had just defeated, "We are now able to  
deprive you of the power and offices, of  
which we have long and loudly proclaim-  
ed, and still believe you to be unworthy;  
but, mistrusting ourselves, we will now  
consent that you maintain them, and  
forego every advantage of victory." To  
adopt the proposed amendment, would, in