House of Assembly.

FRIDAY, March 6.

The Hon. Attorney General, from the Committee on Expiring Laws, submitted the report of that Committee, and on motion, it was ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. P. Sinclair directed the attention of the House to the desirability of causing the extended Debates of the House to be published in all the Island newspapers, in order that the general public might knos the action taken by their represent. He on all questions affecting their i the effect, then submitted a Resolutionteen pounds, that a sum not exceedishers who would be paid to such Debates of the House publish in tiUnder their control.

in the nar. Haviland took exception to Resolution, on the ground that it was introduced contrary to the principle upon which was based the initiation of money votes.

Hon. Attorney General said that though, strictly speaking, the objection urged by the hon. and learned member was correct, yet the purport of the Resolution might be adopted without affecting any vital principle.

Mr. Rielly observed that the Resolution might be amended by striking out the words naming any given amount, and leave it with the House to pay out of the sum that would be voted at the end of the Session, for contingent expenses, such sum as the House might think proper to each publisher of the Debates.

Hon. Col. Secretary said that the only objectionable feature in the Resolution was the naming of the amount intended to be paid. The hon. member who moved in the matter was no doubt influenced by motives of economy in naming the amount It was indeed wisdom to name the sum which each publisher would receive on the due performance of the work, and the safest method, therefore, was the adoption of the usual course touching such questions.

Hon. Mr. Haviland then stated that the Resolution had taken the House by surprise, no notice of it having appeared on the Order Book, in accordance with the established rule of the House.

Hon. Attorney General said the rule relative to the initiation of money votes would not apply in that case; it was not usual to introduce matters touching the publishing of the Debates or the payment of the Officers of the House in accordance with the rule in question.

Mr. Sinclair then said that he had no desire to press his motion, as objections had arisen; he would, therefore, withdraw it, and place a notice on the Order Book declarative of his intention to bring up the question at another time.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 7.

House in Committee on expiring laws. Mr. Geo. Sinclair in the chair.

Hon. Atty. General submitted two Resolutions, which were severally read, to the effect that it was expedient to continue and amend the Act relating to accidents by fire at Summerside, and the removal of nuisances from the streets thereof.

Hon. Mr. Howlan expressed his surprise that the hon. member for Summerside (Mr. McLennan) was not prepared to submit a Resolution for the Incorporation of that growing and important town. Public meetings had been held there, and it appeared from the reports which were published in the newspapers of that place, that resolutions were adopted at public meetings touching that subject.

Mr. McLennan was glad to find that Hon. Mr. Howlan (a member of the Government) was prepared to assist Summerside; he however thought it advisable to defer any action on the subject until it would be found that the people of that place asked for an Act of Incorporation.

Hon. Mr. Davies spoke of the rapid growth of Summerside. It was now a place of very considerable importance, it had progressed by the real industy of its people. It was better however to stay further proceedings on the subject until a bill for the Incorporation of that town would be submitted.

Mr. Green said it would be quite time enough for the House to take up the matter when the people of Summerside asked for it—he would then be prepared to entertain the question.

A Committee was then appointed to bring in a bill pursuant to said resolutions, viz:—Mr. McLennan, Hon. Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Howlan.

House adjourned.

MONDAY, March 9.

Hon. Mr. Haviland said, before going into Committtee, he would make a flying commentary on the Speech with which the Session had been opened. He felt disappointed that the hon. member who presented the draft address to the House, had not made the motion to go into Committee. He thought the hon. member would have delivered an eloquent address on the vital interests that were brought before the House. Last Session the reason given by the Government for not maturing any very grave questions was the lateness of the Session and the short time they had been in power; but now no such excuse could be offered, and yet he could not congratulate them on their production; true, it alluded to the loan which was to give free land to the down-trodden tenantry, and was also to give assistance to the commercial interests of the Colony. The opposition side of the House last Session said that there existed no necessity for a loan. The Loan Bill, however, was passed, and is now on the Staute Book a dead letter. He alluded to the Attorney General's visit to England, as a delegate to secure the loan; but the Speech records no benefits accruing from his mission. It was most extraordinary that the Government should send to England for a loan, and plenty of money to be had on the Island af 6 per cent. The money due on the Cunard Estate had been paid, and the Banks were by no means embarrassed. There were, he said, at the present moment £28,000 in the two Banks at Charlottetown, waiting for investment. He alluded to the paragraph touching the petition from the settlers on the Selkirk Estate, and contended that the Government should have declared some course of action on that important question. He reviewed the paragraph relative to Education, and said that it too, like that on the subject of the Selkirk Estate was very indefinitely worded. He glanced at the subject of Road-making, and expressed his readiness to give his support to any measure that might be introduced for fostering the agricultural interests of the country. He expressed his surprise that no allusion was made in the Speech to the necessity of improving our Insolvency Act.

Hon. Atty. General replied to the address of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, whose allusion to the happy group reminded him of having seen, when in London, that happy group; they were very unlike the late members of the Government, for they had quareled among themselves and ultimately burst their cage. The opposition, when in a majority, did not always advance important measures in their speeches at the opening of the Session. It was however gratifying to state that there existed no necessity ... Session, ing in the Speech of the confused state, that the country was not be maintained, and that the lay the hon. leader of the op- He differed on the loan question, and believed positi... erial interests of the country would then enhanced by it The export trade of the Colony last autumn was exceedingly prosperous, and relieved, to a considerable extent, the mercantile depression that had been apprehended. It was rather unusual to review the Speech before going into Committee; he was however always pleased to hear the opinion of the hon. leader of the Opposition on all public questions. As to the insolvent question, he would ask why was not that subject entertained by the hon. member when he was in the majority, and in the Government himself.

Mr. Brecken also reviewed His Excellency's Speech, and was replied to by the Hon. Mr. Howlan. A few remarks were made by the Hon. Mr. Laird touching the general depression felt, because of the withdrawal from the channels of trade of such a large sum of money for the purchase of the Cunard Estate; to which the Hon. Mr. Duncan replied by stating that there existed no scarcity of money, in proof af which he stated that large sums of money were deposited in the Banks awaiting investments.

After which the House went into a Committee of the whole on the address in answer to His Excellency's speech.

Hon. Mr. Kelly in the chair.

A long debate on the second paragraph in the address then followed. Hons. leader of the opposition, McAulay, Henderson, Duncan, and Messrs. Brecken and Prowse, severally addressed the Committee, from the Opposition side of the House; and Hons. leader of the Government, Atty. General, Davies, Howlan, Laird, and Messrs. McNeil and Bell, on behalf of the Government. The leading topic in the debate was the purchase of the remaining portions of proprietary lands in this Colony. The speakers on the opposition side contended that the paragraph under consideration was far from satisfactory to the tenantry, who were led to believe that the present majority would initiate some definite measure for their relief. The Tenant leaguers especially had sent representatives to Parliament for the very purpose of carrying out their declared intentions, relative to the propriety of introducing a compulsory measure for the land question, and it would now seem that the promises made to them were to be broken.

The speakers on the Government side of the House denied that they had made any promises to the people which they had not endeavored to carry out. There were no promises nor pledges made by them further than to carry out the principles of the Land Purchase Act.

At the close of the debate the question was put on the paragraph in question and carried. House adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 10.

The House in Committee of the whole resumed the consideration of the address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. Hon. Mr. Kelly in the chair.

The third paragraph in the address having been read, a long debate on the subject followed, and was kept up until 10 o'clock, p. m.

Mr. Howat observed that proposals had been made to absentee proprietors, all of which they refused. The country expected and had a right to expect some further action on the all important question of relieving the tenantry of the Colony from Proprietory bondage. Some definite rate of purchase should be fixed, and a reasonable compensation made to proprietors, by which they could not justly be said to suffer any material loss. The Liberal party accused the Conservatives of not effecting the final settlement of the question, and now the former were expected to adopt some energetic course of action True, the Conservatives passed the 15 years Purchase Act, which was at all events partially compulsory. The abolishment of proprietory claims in Canada was a precedent upon which to act. The British Government sanctioned that Act. Why not attempt a similar measure in this Colony? It could only be refused. It appeared the loan was now available, and he would lend his support to any measure that would be submitted for the purchase of the land tenures.

Hon, Atty. General concurred partially with the remarks of the hon. member (Mr. Howat). He, Attorney General, then gave an account of his interview with Miss Sulivan, to whom he offered, on behalf of the Government, the purchase of her Estate on the Island, but which she refused to accept. He also read his letter addressed to Lord Melville, to the effect that he was authorized by the Government of the Colony to offer, for the purchase of his Lordship's Estate in the Island, estimated at 10,000 acres on Lot 29, and 1,182 acres on Lot 53—together with all arrears of rent, and securities for the same due thereon—the sum of £5,000, stg., payable by instalments, as described in said letter, to which his Lordship replied declining to accept the proposition, on the ground that the terms would be disadvantageous to him. He (Hon. Attorney General) then spoke of his interviews with several other landed proprietors in England, and regretted to have to say that they were not disposed to meet his views on the subject of selling their lands to the local Government. The question was not however to remain in abeyance, a correspondence with the Home Government on the subject had been opened, answers to which might be expected in a few days, when the subject would be laid before the House.

Hon. Mr. McAulay said the question had been made a stalking horse by many for the purpose of securing places and positions, the duties of which they were very incompetent to discharge. He was not sorry that the loan had proved a failure, his opinion on the subject had not changed since last session. The measure was not calculated to benefit the tenantry, and would only (if obtained) sink the Colony into debt.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said his sentiments relative to the question of obtaining a loan were unaltered. It would appear from the amount of capital in the Banks, a loan was not necessary. He observed that the compulsory principles of the 15 years purchase, introduced by the Conservative party, were now to be adopted by the present majority. The provisions of that much despised bill were coercive and binding upon consenting Proprietors; and a bill was passed also by the late Government, as a supplement to the 15 years purchase Act, enabling the Government to loan to tenants, purchasing their lands under provisions of 15 years Purchase, one half the sum required for that purpose, and many of the tenantry availed themselves of the priveleges of those bills. Despite all the prejudices that had been created against the Act, a portion of the tenantry of the Colony were relieved from the payment of large sums of back rents, law ... and bonds, which had been cancelled by the bill.

Mr. P. Sinclair contended that no general benefits accrued to the tenantry from the provisions of the Fifteen Years Purchase Act. The lands were valued at too high a rate in that Bill, and it was a falure as a coercive measure. The sum required to buy the land under the Fifteen Years Purchase Act would yield the tenant in interest more than the annual rent payable. It could not be termed compulsory, for it was a voluntary proposal on the part of the Proprietors in place of the Award of the Land Commission. He was highly pleased with the course pursued by the Hon. Attorney General when in England, and as Proprietors refused to sell, he would support a coercive measure, and he hoped that both sides of the House would unite to mature a Bill by which the question would be forever set at rest.

Mr. McNeill said he was blamed for holding extreme views on the question. The offer of the hon. Atty. General was a fair one, and it would yet be seen that it would have been the interest of the Proprietor, as well as the tenant, to have complied with the proposition submitted.

Hon. Mr. Duncan read statements to show that upwards of £58,000 was deposited in the Banks, and as proof of their prosperity, a bonus of 5 per cent. had just been declared in the Bank of P. E. Island. It was, he said, altogether unnecessary, and contrary to the best interests of the Colony, to obtain any loan from abroad, when plenty of capital could be had for all available purposes.

Hon. Mr. Howlan would ask if the moneys deposited in the Banks were available for the purchase of lands; he thought not. The money in the Banks was the property of minors and others, by whom, or on whose behalf, deposits were made that could not be appropriated to the purchase of lands. Business men, and Merchants also, had accounts with the Banks, and the sums placed to their credit were liable to a call at any moment, and was deposited for the purpose of making it available for the prosecution of the ordinary trade and business of the country, and not to be appropriated to the purchase of proprietary lands.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that he was not prepared to express his views on this new measure respecting which a correspondence had taken place between the Local Government and the Home Department, which course was rather novel under Responsible Government. He would like to know if any distinction would be drawn by the contemplated measure, between local and absentee Proprietors, or were they all to be put into the same category. He instanced cases in which tenants over whom he was acting as agent, had been remitted large amounts of arrears by the Fifteen Years Purchase Act, for which they expressed to him their gratitude.

Mr. Cameron said there was an expression of opinion the 15 years Purchase Bill, relative to the high value put on lands, that was calculated to injure the cause of the tenantry. Though he had never been a member of a Tenant League, he would defend the conduct of the large majority of that body.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hon. Leader of the Government reviewed the several enactments of the Liberal party relative to the Land Question, and said now that all reasonable offers and every possible effort had been made to purchase Proprietary claims, and had partially failed in totally abolishing the tenant system, it was not to be wondered at, that a coercive measure would be resorted to. Some stringent measure would have to be adopted.

Mr. Brecken reverted to the arguments that had been used in favor of the loan, and said it was well for the interest of the country that the hon. Atty. General, whom he was ready to admit, had conducted his mission conscientiously and diligently, had not succeeded in borrowing money under the Loan Bill.

Mr. Prowse said that many of the poorer tenants would rather endure, for a time at all events, hardship and privation, in order to pay their instalments and become freeholders, than continue to pay rents all their lifetime. The loan bill was not required, as money was attainable in the country.

Mr. George Sinclair reviewed the speech of the hon. leader of the Opposition on the address, and argued that it was not sound policy for any Government to mature measures without consulting their supporters, and approved of the course pursued in not definitely stating the details of the measures alluded to in the address touching the paragraph in question.

Hon. Mr. Laird held the opinion that the soil of any country should be the property of the tiller of that soil. The fact that Lord Melville, an absentee Proprietor, received annually, from the soil of Lot 29, the sum of £200 stg., was no small tax on the settlers on that Township. It was not to be expected that the people thus burthened would remain dormant.

Mr. Rielly said it was a vital principle to decide whether the people should be governed by the bayonet or by public opinion. He was not indebted to the tenant League for his seat in the House, but was dependent, in common with his fellow countrymen, on the success of the Agriculturist. The people of the country were grossly libelled by the letter of Sheriff Dodd, and the actions of the Conservative Government relative to the question to which that correspondence alluded. Could it be denied that the Colony was saved the payment of £5,000 by the mission of the Hon. Atty. General to England? That was the sum demanded for the maintenance of troops stationed here hunting tenants.

The question having been put at the close of the debate on the paragraph under consideration, it was carried, and reported agreed to.

Progress was then reported, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 11.

The House in Committee had under consideration that paragraph in the Address relating to the petition of the inhabitants on the Selkirk Estate, asking for the adoption of measures for their release from all further payments on account of their purchases on that Estate. The Report of the Hon. Atty. General and Solicitor General on the subject was alluded to in the course of the debate which took place, and was kept up the whole day.

Hon Leader of the Opposition said the question peculiarly affected the constituents of the hon. members for Belfast, and he had no doubt, however widely they might differ in other matters, they would be of the same mind touching the question involved in the paragraph under consideration. He had expected that a measure would have been matured by the Government, based on the opinion of the Law officers, and submitted to the House.

Hon. Mr. Davies in reply, directed the attention of the Committee to the paragraph in question, and said the report of the Law Officers of the Crown would be presented to the House, and then the subject would be entertained in a more definite manner, and a measure well matured would be submitted, such as would give satisfaction to the people, and such a measure too as would stand on its own merits. He would however in the meantime observe, that the rate fixed on the lands on that Estate was much higher than that recommended by the Land Commissioner. The amount paid in cash up to the 31st of January, by the settlers, amounting to about £13,000, a sum sufficient to cover the cost and working expenses of the Estate as required by law. He was therefore of opinion that seven, instead of ten, instalments, should be demanded from the people on that Estate; and that those who have paid over that amount, should have the surplus remitted to them.

Hon. Mr. Duncan felt disappointed that the paragraph contained no allusion to any bill to be presented by the Government, to relieve the settlers on the Selkirk Estate. He would, however, be prepared to support any measure for the relief of the petitioners, which might be submitted.

Hon. Members on both sides of the House took part in the discussion which followed. There was a diversity of opinion relative to the question, expressed on each side of the House. The principal difficulty appeared to be involved in the construction that might be put on that portion of the Land Purchase Act relative to the self-sustaining principle of the bill, and whether each Estate purchased under its provisions was to be priced separately, with the view of paying for itself only, or was it to be priced with other Estates previously purchased, with the view of making up the loss on the one at the expense of the other. That each Estate separately was intended by the true meaning and spirit of the Act to be self-sustaining, and that no one Estate should be called upon to make up the loss incurred in respect of the purchase of another, appeared to be the prevailing opinion of the House.

The paragraph of the address in question having been agreed to, the Chairman proceeded to read the following one, relating to settling wilderness lands.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition remarked that some explanations as to the nature of the contemplated bill alluded to in the paragraph should be given to the House.

Hon. Leader of the Government replied, that the object of the Bill alluded to was to propose easier terms to actual settlers on Wilderness lands, than was given by the Land Purchase Act as it now stood. Encouragement should be held out to the young men of the country to settle on those lands, and not seek a home in other countries. Any reduction that would be made in the price of these lands would be amply met by the stimulus which it would give to the actual settler, and thereby prove a benefit and not a loss to the revenue of the country.

The paragraph touching the expenditure of the past year, having been amended, by striking out the allusion in the latter part thereof touching the demands made upon the Treasury, caused by the gales of last autumn, was agreed to.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

Correspondence.

Letter from Charlottetown.

DEAR JOURNAL:—

In my last I intended to have mentioned that I had been present on the evening of the fourth instant, at a public tea given by the ladies of the Rev. Mr. Falconer's Congregation, to the Sabbath School children, under the Superintendance of Mr. G. Lockerby. After they and their guests had taken tea, Mr. Hubbard, of this city, treated the children to several exhibitions of the Magic Lantern. I know that many children in the country have in their reading familiarized their minds with the scenes that can be presented to the eye by means of the Magic Lantern; but there are others perhaps, who have not, and to whom a word or two on the subject may not be uninteresting. Let any of my young readers then suppose themselves placed in a dark room, where no light is to be seen except one bright circle on the wall, about five feet in diameter. Then let them imagine that they see a man making his appearance on one side of this bright spot, and that on the opposite side they see a mouse. The appearance of this man is repulsive. He has an uncombed head, a long beard, a large mouth, and very long teeth. He gives a sudden look at the mouse, just as some little boys may have seen a snake do when he has caught the eye of a toad, with this difference, the snake keeps perfectly still, and by his power over the creature before him, compels it to move toward it, and hopping and wailing, it approaches the snake, gives a cry, and enters into its mouth. I have no doubt but that many a dear little fellow in the country has seen a sight like this. But in the scene exhibited by the Magic Lantern, the dark ugly man keeps opening and shutting his mouth, as he keeps gazing upon the mouse. By and by poor little mousie enters his mouth, when the old fellow chews away quite fast, and soon swallows him, tail and all, when smacking his lips he looks around for another, and not seeing any, withdraws out of sight. In the same way my young friends can imagine that they see ships, rail cars, or any object they choose, as presenting itself on the bright spot, and they have an idea of what is exhibited to the view by a Magic Lantern. The children were afterwards addressed by their kind pastor, Rev. Mr. Falconer, by Dr. Young, Professor Anderson, and D. Laird, Esq., when presents were presented to the several scholars for good attendance, one of whom was a pretty old man.

Can anything give more pleasure to well balanced minds than that which arises from the knowledge that they have been instrumental in making glad the hearts of the young. No doubt many of the children who were present on that pleasant evening, and who were so cheerful, so joyous, and so happy, have days of sorrow and days of sadness before them, and who in after life will look back upon evenings thus spent, among those who love them, as bright and happy ones, the reminicences of which will cause a stream to flow from the emotions of their souls.

The proceedings in the House of Assembly, in so far as speech making is concerned, has been a progressive one. The debate on the address in reply to His Excellency's speech commenced on Monday, and was brought to a close on Thursday evening, and on Friday at four o'clock the address was presented to His Excellency. The debate was characterised at times by good reasoning, interspersed with some humor, some wit, and occasionally some feeling, but upon the whole, hon. members displayed more than usual courtesy towards each other. In this respect some hon. members do better than they were in the habit of doing in former years.

Hon. members in debating, are not over particular in confining themselves to the subject immediately under discussion. The chairmen is generally the most good natured of men, and allows any hon. member to pursue his own course, and as a consequence, there are wider departures from the rules laid down than could be allowed were they enforced. Among the young members, Hon. A. Laird, Mr. P. Sinclair, and Mr. Rielly, confine themselves the most closely to the subject under discussion, and have their reward, in the respectful hearing they receive. I may allude to the personal of the House on another occasion. There has been some rain this week, there is a good deal of water in some of the crossings in the streets, but the mild weather is welcome after the long continuance of cold.

OBSERVER.

March 14, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL.

SIR:—

In glancing over the pages of the last issue of the *Progress*, I noticed that the Editor of that paper gives a report of a public meeting held in this place on Saturday evening last, for the purpose of placing our Fire Department on a more efficient footing.

This report I contend is not a fair one, and if allowed to go forth uncontradicted, may lead the public to believe that the people of Summerside are almost unanimously in favor of a municipal law or act of Incorporation.

Mr. Kirwan states that "the opposition to the report of the Committee was feeble, unsound, and seemingly factious." This comes with very bad taste from a person who took part in the discussion, to characterise his opponents' arguments as "feeble and unsound." Is Mr. Kirwan the proper person to judge? If meeting the arguments of an opponent in a gentlemanly spirit of fairness is a sign of weakness, then was the opposition weak, and if a resort to course language and low abuse is an evidence of strength, the arguments of some of the speakers in favor of the report were powerful indeed.

Again Mr. Kirwan says that "the Resolutions of the Committee were accepted after a thorough discussion." How, I ask, could the discussion be thorough if the opposition was "feeble and unsound?" A thorough discussion of any subject implies that the arguments, *pro* and *con*, were urged with ability and to the point. A thorough discussion with a feeble and unsound opposition is something I cannot understand. That a majority of that meeting were in favor of adopting the Report of the Committee is a fact; but that a majority of the taxpayers of Summerside are in favor of the contemplated alteration in our affairs remains to be seen.

Yours, &c.,

OBSERVER.

Summerside, March 19, 1868.

Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry.

In the whole history of medical discoveries NO REMEDY has performed so many or such remarkable cures of the numerous affections of the throat, Lungs and Chest, as this long tried and justly celebrated balsam. So generally acknowledged is the superior excellency of this remedy, that but few of the many who have tested its virtues by experience fail to keep it handy as a speedy and certain cure for sudden attacks of cold—fully believing that its remedial powers are comprehensive enough to embrace every form of disease, from the slightest cold to the most dangerous symptom of pulmonary complaint.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONY.

From Rev. FRANCIS LOBDEL, Pastor of the South Congregational Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

"I consider it a duty which I owe to suffering humanity to bear testimimony to the virtues of Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry. I have used it—when I have had occasion for any remedy for coughs, colds, or sore throat—for many years, and never in a single instance has it failed to relieve and cure me. I have frequently been very hoarse on Saturday, and looked forward to the delivery of two sermons on the following day with sad misgivings, but by a liberal use of the Balsam my hoarseness has invariably been removed, and I have preached without diffiulty.

I commend it to my brethren in the ministry, and to public speakers generally, as a certain remedy for the bronchial troubles to which we are peculiarly exposed.

☞ None genuine unless signed I. BUTTS on the wrapper.

Prepared by SETH W. FOWLE & SON, 18 Tremont Boston, and for sale by Druggists generally. W. R. Watson General Agent for P. E. Island [March 5.

NEWS SUMMARY.

THE news from Great Britain this week is interesting. The excitement caused in monetary and other circles, by the trouble which might arise out of the *Alabama* claims, has subsided, and confidence is more firmly established. The dark cloud which was thought so portentious of evil has passed over without doing anybody any harm. The threatening attitude assumed toward England by a few fanatics—which was first thought to be the voice of the nation—has been frowned down by the more patriotic and clear-minded of the American people. The thinking men and the most influential members of the Press, declare it would be political madness to engage such a powerful antagonist as the British Empire There appears to be a desire on all sides to have the matter settled amicably. In the House of Commons, on the 6th inst., Mr. Shaw Lefevre stated the case from the U. S. point of view; Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Foster spoke. Lord Stanley, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, defended England's treatment of the question, and advised the appointment of a mixed commission for its adjustment. The *Times* says the debate must convince the United States that England wishes to settle the law in this case in the American sense, and that the failure of Great Britain to refer the *Alabama* claims to arbitration is due to no desire to avoid her just obligations. Mr. Seward has only to meet Lord Stanley in a like spirit to end this misunderstanding.

An important change has taken place in the British Ministry. Lord Derby has resigned from ill-health. He was one of the most successful Premiers which England ever had, and he possessed a great share of the confidence of all parties in the British Parliament. He is succeeded by Mr. Disraeli, late Chancellor of the Exchequer, who will himself be succeeded by G. W. Hunt; Chelmsford, Lord Chancellor by Sir Hugh Cairns. Mr. Disraeli has called a private meeting of all the Tory members.——Train whs again arrested as he was about to lecture, for debt.——Baron Rothschild is to be raised higher in the peerage.——The Prince of Wales will soon make a visit to Ireland where he is to be made a Knight of the order of St. Patrick.

Despatches from Annesley Bay say that King Theodorus has arrived in the immedate neighborhood of Magdala with his troops and war material. The advance of the British Expedition was steadily pushing ahead under General Napier, and at last accounts was four days march beyond the village of Attergal.

In Portugal matters are not going on smoothly. An effigy of their Queen was burnt by an excited mob in the Capital of the country.——The Fenians attempted to blow up a machine shop in Limerick, but were frustated in their diabolical design by the vigilance of the police.——On the 4th inst. Mr. Disraeli, the new Premier, took his position amid the cheers and congratulations of all parties.——The Habeas Corpus Act is suspended in Ireland——The Fenians Burke, Casey & Sheen were, for fear of a threatened rescue, brought to Newgate by a guard of 20 police. No attempts were made, however.——A civil war is raging in Japan, and great excesses are committed on both sides.

UNITED STATES.

From the United States the news is of an exciting nature. Impeachment is the chief topic of discussion in all our American exchanges. The Senate has resolved itself into a High Court of Impeachment, Chief Justice Chase presiding. In the meantime Senator Wade occupies the Presidential chair. In the event of Mr. Johnson being found guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, Mr. Wade will keep it until next March. The trial is going on now, and will in all probability continue for some time.——Jeff. Davis is in New York. He was repeatedly cheered by some citizens, and the bands played "Bonnie Blue Flag." The loyal citizens are indignant, and trouble is feared.——Advices from San Francisco state that there is excitement at Victoria over threats by the Fenians. A gunboat full of Marines patrolled the harbor, and the magazine was double guarded; the engine houses were also guarded and the volunteers were ordered to be in readiness for instant service.——Barnum's Museum was recently destroyed by fire; some rare animals were burnt. He is going to build a fire-proof one.

NEW DOMINION.

The Revenue of the Dominion in February was $593,221, and the Expenditure $782,943. ——The Official Gazette announces the appointment of Col. Franklin as Administrator of the Nova Scotia Government in General Doyle's absence.——The Dominion Parliament assembled at Ottawa on the 12th. The session will be a very important one, and it is thought that many changes will be made in the Tariff.——A woman was arrested at Toronto on the 8th, on suspicion of poisoning her husband and three children.

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1868.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

EDUCATION.

THE attention of our Legislature having been invited by the Speech of the Lieut. Governor to the subject of Education, it may not be out of place to devote a short space to the consideration of what are somewhat generally regarded the defects in our present system, and some of the remedies which may probably remove them.

The intention of the Normal School at its institution was, we believe, to prepare the teachers for the more efficient discharge of their duties, by instructing them in the art of teaching, and not in the completion of their education in other respects. From some cause or other, it is used for the latter purpose. Young persons come there to learn what they ought to have acquired at the District Schools; and having obtained sufficient knowledge to pass an examination by the Board of Education, receive a School License, without their capability of teaching having been tested; at least such is the information we have obtained. The generality of our teachers are, we understand, well instructed as far as their own attainments go, but we consider that their usefulness would be much increased if they underwent a special training, under an efficient instructor, in the art of teaching, before they applied for a license.

In Scotland, we are informed by authority before us, that an applicant is first tested in his ability to interest and arrest the attention of a class, before his educational attainments are proceeded with, and if he cannot by anecdote, illustration, and otherwise, succeed in commanding the attention of the pupils, he is kindly informed of the fact, and advised to pursue some other calling; and we have long thought that some such arrangement might be adopted in this Island.

The encouragement held out to second class teachers we regard as by no means sufficient. The advance of five pounds per annum does not remunerate them for the time occupied and the expense incurred in the cost of the books necessary to enable them to complete their studies.

Without expressing any opinion on the School Visitors, or the manner in which these gentlemen perform their duties, we would merely suggest that unless one be appointed for each county—which we would like to see—one examination in the year, if thoroughly performed, would be sufficient; and if the parents as well as the trustees could be prevailed upon to be present at these examinations, we are sure that the effect both upon scholars and teachers, would be highly beneficial. A spirit of emulation would be excited in the one, and the other would be aroused to use greater efforts, when he perceived that his labors were appreciated.

In New Brunswick, we believe, a county examination takes place periodically, when small prizes are distributed to the deserving scholars. In Nova Scotia prizes are also given to the district scholars. Marshall's History of that province having been selected as one of the books thus distributed.

One of the most important offices in the promotion of education is that of the trustees of a school; and yet how seldom are these duties discharged as they might, and ought to be. These duties we know are arduous, often involving disagreements and producing opposition from their neighbors, and above all from the intricate wording and contradictory sections of the present Act. The office is at best a thankless one, and those who fill it properly are entitled to the lasting gratitude of the whole District. In the new Act we should like to see plainer directions, for the guidance of trustees.

We hazard these few remarks in the hope that they may elicit some practical suggestions from parties conversant with the difficulties which beset this most important question.