LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 12.

Hon. Mr. PALMER, on rising to move the order of the day for the second reading of the Bill to confirm the Award of the Commissioners on the Land Question, said—This is a Bill of great importance to the Colony. It is that measure which proposes to confirm the Award of the Land Commissioners, which has been before the public for some weeks. The Bill is formed on very simple principles. It is confined exactly to the Award as it is given, and provides that it shall operate, just as it was intended to operate by the very able Commissioners who made it. One part of that Award, as is well known to your Honors; and it may be termed a most material part, where the price of land cannot be mutually agreed upon, is considered rather imperfect in its constituent principle, inasmuch as it does not provide for the appointment of a third arbitrator, in the event of the other two not agreeing to one. It is to be lamented a good deal that that principle had not been carried out in some more definite manner by the Award. Whether it was owing to an oversight, or to a practical difficulty, I am at a loss to say; but there it is, and the country must deal with it as it is. Now, it may be the opinion of many persons that when we sit down to legislate upon it that the remedy is in our own hands, and we might as well proceed to devise some means to obviate the appointment of the third arbitrator. It is very true that might be done; but I think it would be an act of great impolicy to attempt to legislate to that degree in the Bill now before us: this Bill can scarcely be considered legislating upon the Award. There is no compulsory means for the appointment of an Umpire, in the event of the two arbitrators not agreeing, and it is for that reason that legislation is called forth upon the matter. We know that the Award, in consequence of the previous Bill to confirm it not receiving the Royal sanction, is a very inoperative document, if people chose to say we will not comply with it. But if we attempt to lay down any plan, in this Bill, to dispense with the appointment of an umpire, it would put it into the mouths of those who are disposed to be captious, to say, the Legislature has gone further than was intended by the Award—it would punish them with arguments, I say, to reject the whole Award. It is therefore safest for us, and all who wish to see the Award confirmed, to confine ourselves to the confirmation of it in its pure terms, though it is not all we could wish. Then we have the proprietors who signed the reference bound to abide by the decision of the Commissioners, as well as Her Majesty's Government pledged to confirm this Act. But if we go beyond this, and attempt to supply those defects which we see in the Award, and which we lament, it will endanger the Bill. Therefore, I look upon it, that the great chance of obtaining the benefits of the Award is by keeping within that bond of faith which exists between the Proprietors, the Imperial Government and the local Government, and not to overstep that line which would give either of the two first named occasion to say, you have broken faith with us, and therefore we are at liberty to give our dissent to the Award. Since the present Bill has been prepared with that object in view, and having confined ourselves to the confirmation of the Award in simple terms, we may look forward with confidence that the Imperial Government will not refuse their sanction to this Bill. We will then have overcome the great obstacles to the settlement of this long agitated question; and though the Bill may not be perfect, yet if the Royal assent is given to this Bill, they will have sanctioned the principle of the Award, and having done so, if another Bill go home showing that the Award is in some respects defective, and enacting such supplementary measures as will render it complete, we will have good grounds to hope that it too will receive the royal allowance. By gradual legislation in this way the measure may be rendered perfect. And in order to give the country the advantages of the Award, with as little delay as possible, the government has framed another Bill to prescribe how the arbitration clause shall be carried out. That Bill is now before the other branch of the Legislature, and I hope it will meet the approbation both of that House and this. And if Her Majesty's Government considers that we have gone too far in that Bill, and deems it proper to reject it, they may do so, and yet leave the principles of the Award intact. It will then be in the power of the local Government to devise some other means less objectionable in the eyes of the Home Government. It is useless for us to attempt to enforce any Bill contrary to those great constitutional principles and rights of property as acknowledged in Britain; but by keeping within bounds, and going on by gradual steps, we will be far more likely to gain our object than by giving way to feelings outside, and allowing ourselves to be forced into a Bill which would be denounced as highly objectionable by the Colonial Minister. I therefore hope your honors will concur with a large majority of the House of Assembly in passing this bill. And it having passed both branches of the Legislature with a large majority, will go home with a strong recommendation, and will doubtless also be accompanied with a strong recommendation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor; we may then confidently expect that it will obtain the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. By this Bill we will obtain the great principle, and by the other we may be able to add to it, and to supply what is lacking for the fair and honest working of the Award.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I think there can be but one opinion with regard to this Bill, and it is, that the confirmation of the Award should take place, for otherwise it would be a complete breach of faith. The confirmation of the Award should take place, because the Bill passed in the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's reign to confirm the Award, was unanimously adopted by this House; and by the second clause of that Bill it is enacted that the Award shall be final and conclusive; therefore, to refuse to pass this Bill would be a breach of faith. Under these circumstances I will support the second reading of the Bill. But I may give my opinion with regard to the Award. I do not think it can, by any possibility, come up to the expectations of the tenantry, though I believe the Commissioners have done what they conceived to be justice. Now, I believe the proprietors are not satisfied, and I do not know why, for the Award gives them more than they could ever have expected. It confirms their titles. I may be told that their titles were confirmed before—that they were legal. But if a man went into a Court of Law, and the slightest flaw were found in his title, he would be turned out and non-suited. But their titles are confirmed now, and no question respecting their validity can arise hereafter; therefore, I think the proprietors should be well satisfied with the character of the Award. Then, again, they should be satisfied because it renounces all claim to the arrears of Quit Rents. I may be told that this question was settled in 1832; but I would just ask your honors to show me a despatch giving up the arrears of Quit Rents to the proprietors? I never saw it. I am not going to enter into the amount of those Quit Rents at present; I have heard that £200,000 are still due, and as they have never been given up by any Act of the local Legislature, or by any despatch from the Colonial Office, and as the Award, if confirmed, will put an end for ever to that question, I think the proprietors should be well satisfied. Then the next thing which is given up, and which seems most extraordinary, is the Fishery Reserves. I may be told that these reserves are useless, and that it was an unfair reservation; but with that we have nothing to do. The right to the soil was invested in the Crown in some cases, and in the proprietors in others; but they are all swept away; therefore, I think the proprietors cannot complain on that ground. There is yet another claim which is given up to the proprietors, and which is very singular; it is the claims of the Loyalists. They have been referred to the local Government. Therefore, I cannot see that the proprietors have any cause to complain when the loyalists have been shifted from off their shoulders. Another thing that strikes me as very singular is the high price put upon land. Now, I ask your honors if you do not consider 20 years' purchase too high a price for land on this Island under ordinary circumstances; though some farms, having a mill stream or being near a market, or possessing some other local advantage, may be worth that much? 20 years' purchase, under ordinary circumstances, is surely too high. Well, that is the price fixed by the Award. It is true, there is a suggestion about an arbitration; but that cannot be depended upon. Therefore, the Award gives everything to the proprietors that they asked for, and scarcely anything to the tenants. I now come to the arrears of rent. I have been a resident on this Island for 24 years, and I believe that wherever there was a tenant who was able to pay one shilling rent, that shilling has been exacted from him. I believe that all the arrears which have accumulated prior to 1858, are only simple bad debts; therefore, it is very little injury to the proprietors. On some Townships some may be collected, but I have heard so much about distraints for rent since the commencement of the Land Commission, that I cannot help coming to the conclusion that every shilling that can be recovered has been collected. Now, what are the benefits conferred upon the tenantry? I have read and examined the Award carefully, and it appears to me that the benefits which will result from it are comparatively insignificant. There are two suggestions made by the Commissioners which, if they could be carried out, might be some benefit. First, the purchase of the lands, and secondly, the arbitration scheme. But judging from the tenor of His Grace's despatch, there is very little hope of either the one or the other being carried out, for concerning the first he says, "I fear I cannot hold out any hope that Her Majesty's Government will guarantee the loan;" and concerning the second he says, "there are insuperable objections to it." I would be glad that this question were settled on fair and equitable principles. I did hope that the Commissioners would have fixed the price of the land at a moderate rate, and given the tenants the liberty of purchasing their farms and paying for them in easy annual instalments, and by this means that this question, which has been the bane of the Colony, would be settled. I hoped to see the day when every tenant would become a freeholder; but my hopes of that desirable object being consummated by the Land Commission, are gone. I cannot help agreeing with the Land Commissioners when they say that the British Government did a positive injustice to this Island when they granted away the lands to absentee proprietors; and if they were to grant a sum of money to redeem them, it would be nothing more than a simple act of justice. I think, however, that we are bound to confirm the Award. We are bound by the Act which was previously passed to do so, though I cannot see what benefit is to result from it. With these observations I shall support the motion for the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—I think that in the circumstances of the case it is our duty to confirm the Award; but I cannot see that we are bound to do so.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—If his honor will read the Act passed in 1860, he will see that we are bound to confirm it.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—It appears to me that in the beginning the Commission was established on a wrong foundation. It makes it appear as if all the trouble were between the proprietors and the tenants; but it appears to me that the difference was between the Crown and this Government. The people are suffering, but what was the cause? It was the Crown giving away the whole Island to parties who have not fulfilled the conditions of their grants; one of which conditions was that they were to settle the land in the proportion of one person to every 200 acres. If that had been done it would have been beneficial to the country; but they have not fulfilled their conditions in any way, and they have been forgiven again and again. They were to pay quit rent; but they have not done so. Now, I think the Crown should appeal to those parties to fulfil those engagements.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I do not see any use in talking about that now.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—It appears to me that it should be between the Crown and the local Government. The tenants should have nothing to do with it. The proprietors have been put all right by the Award; but the tenants will receive very little benefit. Had the Commissioners fixed a fair price for the land it would be all very well; but to assume that it is worth 20s. an acre,—there is no encouragement to a man to purchase his farm, for he would be no better off at the end of 20 years, because the interest of the purchase money would pay the rent. If the arbitration clause can be worked it may do very well, but it would be better to have a fixed price.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I am glad to hear the last speaker but one say that he would like to see the land question settled; but if we reject the Award I do not know how we are going to effect that object. True, the conditions of the original grants have not been fulfilled; but it would be unjust, at the present lapse of time, to deprive the present occupants of their land on that account, for there are very few of the heirs of the original grantees now holding land in this Colony. Those lands have been taxed since 1813, and was not that an acknowledgment of the proprietors' claims? The next question his honor alluded to was the Quit Rents. Now, I think it was his duty to have examined and seen, when he was Attorney General, whether those Quit Rents were due to the Colony or not.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—They were tied up by the Land Tax Act.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I refer to the arrears of Quit Rents. If there were £200,000 due it was the duty of his honor to look after this debt; and if it were not expedient to do so in 1852, surely it is not in 1862. But to the best of my judgment it was the intention of the British Government that they should be remitted in 1832, when the Land Tax Act was passed. Therefore, I think that question may be set aside. What can we say after the expression of opinion in the despatch of the Secretary of State which accompanied the Award, when he speaks of it as able and pains taking? Can the Colonial Minister say one thing to-day and another to-morrow? True, a former Colonial Minister expressed his willingness to accede to a loan of £100,000, when he was induced to believe that the Revenue of the Colony was in a position to warrant the loan; but afterwards withheld it when he discovered his mistake. The next resource was the Fishery Reserves, and that went down very well for a time, for the tenantry were induced to believe that they would be given up to them; but more than half of those reserves are in the hands of freeholders, and the Commissioners award that they shall be retained by the persons who occupy them. I think every person will be pleased with the way they are settled. I will not occupy the time of your honors by reverting to Escheat, which has been pronounced a "will-o'-the-wisp." His honor, the President, says that every shilling of rent has been paid that can be collected; but really if it is the case, has the proprietor no right in the soil? What can be more binding than a lease?

Hon. the PRESIDENT—It must be floating in his honor's mind that I have been advocating Escheat, but I never was an advocate for that extreme measure.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—His honor expressed a hope that the question would be settled, but said he had no hope of it being settled by the Award. Well, I wonder what other scheme his honor is going to adopt. I have heard a great many objections urged against the Award, but I have not yet heard any other scheme propounded. (Hon. Mr. Palmer, hear.) I did hope that this question would be settled by the Award, and though it is not as perfect as I could wish, yet to take it on the whole it is the best scheme yet propounded that I have heard of. His honor says that the remission of arrears of rent is no benefit to the tenantry, as every shilling that can be collected has been paid; but I differ from his honor, for on the Lot on which I reside I believe that there are at least £10,000 due. (Hon. Mr. Palmer, hear.) I appeal to his honor, Mr. Forgan, who was formerly agent for the Lot, if that statement is not correct.

Hon. Mr. FORGAN—Yes, it is correct.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—Many of those people are poor, it is true, but their land is liable for the rent. £1 10s. sterling an acre was the lowest the proprietor would take for the fee simple of those farms; not your depreciated sterling either, and that remitted to London. Now, the 20 years' purchase is better than that, and the Award says that the proprietors shall sell for twenty years' purchase, and allow a discount of 10 per cent., if the money is paid down. I would take that if I could get no better terms, though it is too much. My opinion is that 15 years' purchase is as much as it is worth. The Commissioners say it is not worth it, and in one part of the Award assume that it is only worth 2s. 6d. an acre. There appear to be great fears entertained about the arbitrations, but I think it will depend very much on the parties themselves. As for the multiplicity of arbitrations, I do not think that will occur, for the value of land on a Township will be fixed by two or three arbitrations. It was impossible for the Commissioners to examine and fix the price of the land; it would take them two years to do so. Therefore, they adopted other means; they sent an accredited agent here to examine the land, and I am sorry that we have not his report before us. 20 years' purchase is certainly too high, but the arbitration clause will provide the remedy, and when we have passed this Bill, we will have done our duty to ourselves and our country.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I would like to see this question settled, and I did hope it would be settled by the Award, but my hopes are gone. I agree with the Colonial Minister that the Report is very able and pains-taking, so much so that we should have some hesitation in rejecting it; but the Report and the Award are two different things. I believe the Duke of Newcastle is a man of discernment, and will be led, by the Report, to see that there has been an injustice done to this Colony. Where is there another Colony which is called upon to pay its own Civil List when the whole of the lands are in the hands of the proprietors? I have more confidence in the Colonial Minister than to suppose that he will sanction any thing so detrimental to the interests of this Colony as that Award. We know that 20 years' purchase is too high a price for the land, and the proprietors know it too; none of them would ask more than that. As for the arbitration clause, I have no confidence in it; and, in my opinion, the Commissioners have utterly failed in devising any practical plan for the settlement of the question. I do not know but we are premature in legislating upon the Award at all. I would be willing to pass any measure for the good of the country, but I cannot see that this will be any benefit. I am from the country, and I know the minds of the people on this matter: they say the Commission is a total failure; even the supporters of the Government say so. His honor who has just sat down spoke about the Fishery Reserves. He thought both parties would be satisfied with the way that question is settled by the Award; but there is a third party which will not be satisfied, that is the fishermen. I believe that the people of this country will, in course of time, turn their attention more to fishing; but the Reserves are taken from the fishermen and given to the proprietors. The fishermen are poor and few in number; but I do not care how poor or few in number, their rights should be respected.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—Who are the fishermen?

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—Any man who goes to sea and catches fish for the support of his family is a fisherman.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I presume his honor lives in a fishing Port.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I live where there is not so much rent due.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—I have read the Award over and over again, and though I do not pretend to be as competent to judge of its merits as farmers and others who are more deeply interested in it, yet I must say that I cannot see that it will be any advantage to the country. There may possibly be a few of the tenants who will be able to purchase their farms at the high figure named in the Award, but the great majority of them will not; many of them are largely in arrears, and no doubt steps have been taken to secure the whole of the back rent. A man asked me the other day what was the reason the land agent was so anxious to have the rent all settled up? I went to see the agent, said he, and told him that I had no money to pay him. He said he would lend me some, and take security on the leasehold again. Now, that appeared very strange; but that is the way they take to secure the rent; and I believe the greater part of it is secured in some way or other. Many of the tenants cannot pay their accruing rent, and how can they pay the back rent and 20s. an acre for the fee simple of their farms. It is far better for them to keep on as they are. I really think if the matter had been left alone, the people would be better off, for they would not have been distressed so much, and the proprietors would have taken anything they could give them. It has been since this extreme agitation was got up that the tenants have been so much distressed; and instead of this measure going to cure it, it is only going to make matters worse. A great deal has been said about the Commissioners. Now, I think they must have asked the proprietors how much they would take for their land. It has been something like the recent affair in Nova Scotia, of sending round to the public officers to know how much they would have their salaries reduced. I shall oppose the Bill, for I believe it is not worth the paper it is written on.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—Your honors have gone so fully into the subject that it is needless for me to say anything; but I do not see any other course for us but to take the whole Award as it is, and I shall, therefore, support the Bill.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I scarcely deem it necessary to add to the length of this debate, Mr. President, by replying to the statements of the various speakers, but I cannot refrain from offering a few observations. And, first, with regard to your honor; I did not expect the train of argument which I have heard. If I understood your honor, you endeavoured to run through the Award and find fault with it for confirming the proprietors' titles. It is your honor's opinion then that they require to be confirmed, and therefore they must be bad. Then you went on to speak about the vast amount of quit rents still due to the Colony; and you say you never saw a despatch giving up those quit rents. Then the fishery reserves, then the loyalist claims, every single principle of the Award meets your disapprobation; and yet you say you will support the Bill to confirm it. Now, if the Award is so injurious as you represent it to be, I do not see why you should confirm it.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I do not wish to be put in a false position; but by assenting to the Act of 1860 I consider that I am bound to support this Bill, even if the Award were injurious to myself, personally.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Your honor considers that you are bound by the Act of 1860; but if that Act has been disallowed, it leaves you just as you were before, you are released from your obligations.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I do not think so.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Well, as regards the arrears of quit rents. It is a work of supererogation to attempt to give reason upon that point. That subject has been sifted so often, and Her Majesty's Ministers have given it up, so that it is useless to raise doubts about it. His honor says he never saw a despatch giving up those quit rents, but I would refer him to the despatch of the 19th March, 1838. The subject was referred to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and their answer will be found in their letter of the 10th March, 1838. All arrears are remitted up to 1833. There is a solemn decision by persons of competent authority, therefore, it was useless for the Commissioners to go into that. I always look upon it as a second will-o'-the-wisp, for they were remitted up to the time when the Land Tax Act came into operation. With respect to the fishery reserves I shall say very little. I think that question is settled in as satisfactory a manner as has ever been proposed. It is a question of a local nature, in which not many of the inhabitants are concerned. I have never heard of a fishery being stopped for the want of land to dry fish upon. There are always persons willing to give up a piece of land for that purpose. And if the tenant get that valuable part of his farm on the same terms as the other part, I do not think he has much to complain of. Then, with regard to the 20 years' purchase being too high a price for the land. If there were no other provision made there would be something to answer here; but we know that clause does not finally settle the price at 20 years' purchase. It is put in for the benefit of the tenants more than for the proprietors. The arbitrations cannot go higher than 20 years' purchase. I know that some landlords have refused 30s. an acre; and some have got 40s. or 50s. an acre. And the arbitrators will also be bound by it; they may go as low as they like but not higher than 20 years' purchase. Therefore that clause is for the benefit of the tenants. His honor, Mr. Dingwell, says we are premature in legislating upon this Award, and I do not deny but there is some foundation for that opinion. I have some slight misgivings that we may be told so by the Colonial Minister, but that does not deter me from going on and passing this Bill. There is no other alternative for us, and we can do the tenants no harm by it. We pass the Act in good faith. If we do not this, what else can we do? Are we to sit down in despair, and let the Award go to the winds? No! I would be sorry to do so; for though his honor may think we are premature in legislating upon it, yet that should not deter us from passing this Bill. I remember when the former Bill to confirm the Award was introduced, I expressed my misgivings that we were premature; but still I done all I could to get it passed. His honor, Mr. Dingwell, also says that he knows the minds of the people in his part of the country, and that they pronounce the Award a failure. It may be the misfortune of those people not to come within the pale of the Award; but to others who do, is it to be denied on that account? It is surely a great advantage to others to have their arrears of rent swept off, and if they never purchase their farms, they may pay their £5 a year and bid defiance to the landlord. His honor, Mr. Hutchinson, says that some of the proprietors or agents have tried to turn the rents into some other kind of debts; but should that deter us from passing this Bill? Such have been the arguments of hon. members; but if they intend to vote against this Bill I think it would be far better they had not given their reasons for doing so. Now, those three hon. members stand up as the representatives, I suppose, of that body, who are supposed to be opposed to the Award; your position, therefore, renders it incumbent upon you to go forward and state what other remedy you propose.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—The guarantee for the Loan.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—His honor the President alluded to that. *He thought it would be the best remedy, but admitted that he had no hope of attaining it.* The Duke of Newcastle says he fears he can hold out no hope of it; and when he fears, the hon. and learned President may quake, and his honor Mr. Hutchinson too. But I will go further and say, if there were hope of obtaining the loan, I would be very sorry to accept of it, unless we had a guarantee from the Imperial Government that they would pass an Act to compel the proprietors to sell their land. What would be the use of having the money in the chest unless we had the power to compel the proprietors to sell? What would be so blind as to take this loan, and then go round to the proprietors and say, come, we have got a large bag of money now, and we want to purchase your Estates, what will you take for your land? They might say yes, we will take 20s. an acre for it; and no less: what would be the good of the money then?

Hon. the PRESIDENT—They will take less.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Where is the guarantee that they will take less? And until we have that what would be the use of the money?

Hon. the PRESIDENT—We would not require the money till we would have completed the purchase.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—All I want is a guarantee that they will take a reasonable price for their land; but where is the hope that they will do so, without a compulsory law.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—They have never been asked.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Yes, every one of them has been asked, since the present Government came into power, who it was supposed would sell. I therefore hope that this Bill will receive the sanction of this House, and also of Her Majesty's Ministers. If it do not meet the approval of the Imperial Government because the Award is too unfavourable to the proprietors, then I would ask his honor Mr. Dingwell what other measure he could expect to carry that would be more favourable to the tenantry? What does his honor propose better than the Award? I have frequently asked this question but have never received an answer.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—Sooner than take the Award, I would take nothing.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Then if you do without the Award, it is useless to expect to carry any other measure. If I had half of Prince Edward Island for doing it, I do not know how I could sit down and frame any other measure that would meet the sanction of the Imperial Government, and which would be more favourable to the tenantry.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—His honor has alluded to the few words I said, and I wish to explain. He says that no hope can be entertained of the Loan. Well, it is true the Duke says he fears he cannot hold out any hope of it; but he does not condemn it, or say we cannot get it. He says nearly the same about the arbitration clause. I would give the Duke a little further time. If we could combine the arbitration clause with the Award, I would support the Bill. But when we pass the Bill to confirm the Award, we give up the Loan Bill.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—No, the mere confirmation of the Award would not do that.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—Well, we cannot say that the Duke will pass this Bill any more than we can say that he will pass the Loan Bill, therefore, I think we are premature in legislating upon it.

House adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—On reading over the Parliamentary Reporter for the year 1861, I find that the Hon. T. H. Haviland delivered himself of the following patriotic sentiments during the debate on the address in answer to the Governor's Speech, viz:—"I had to come forward and stand for the rights of my country, and never shall I relax my efforts until every necessary object is gained; and no party, I believe, was ever so able to effect the political salvation of the country as the party who at present hold the reins of Government." In the language of Shakespeare, I might exclaim:—

——"I' the name of truth
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed
Which outwardly ye seem?"

Time has enabled us to estimate at their true value the high-sounding assertions just quoted, and to know whether those rights, so confidently promised, have been gained or not. The profound policy, too, by which the "political salvation" of the Colony was to be effected, has been unfolded to our view—that policy which was not only to command the grateful admiration of P. E. Islanders, but to rivet the attention of the world at large. It is within the recollection of many of us that at a meeting of the defunct Political Alliance, held a few years ago, the hon. gentleman above named created quite a sensation by informing the members of that society that the eyes of the world were directed to their proceedings that night, as also to the experiment in legislation which the Government of this Colony were trying. However that may have been, it is certain that not even Archimides, when the knowledge first flashed upon his mind as to the method of ascertaining the specific gravity of pure gold, was more emphatic in crying through the streets of Syracuse, "Eureka, Eureka," than are members of the Government in assuring us that they possess the secret whereby to effect the "political salvation" of the country. This conduct would be pardonable on their part were there any foundation in truth for the boast. But unfortunately for them, the future historian—should P. E. Island ever form the subject of his speculations—when treating on the party who at present hold the reins of Government, will not feel inclined to attribute to the leaders of that party a portion of that political sagacity or foresight which distinguished such characters as a Cardinal Richelieu, a Pitt, or a Burke. The policy which our political wiseacres have adopted will be described in few words, and characterized as the basest that could be brought into operation.

The most superficial observer cannot fail to have discovered that religious dissension is the political secret which so inflated the Hon. Mr. Haviland on the occasion referred to; this was the lever by which he and his hon. colleagues in the Government were to move the minds of the people at pleasure, and insure to themselves and friends the long enjoyment of place and power. The time, however, is not far distant when these gentlemen will be convinced that there is too much intelligence in the country to submit to be governed by fanaticism or to be deluded by fallacious promises. None but the shallowest of shallow politicians would think of carrying into effect in the present day that system of proscription which finds its expression in the columns of the 'Islander,' the 'Monitor' and the 'Protestant.' Nor would any one who had a character to lose as a politician appeal to the worst passions of a mob rather than to the reason of an intelligent people for a continuance of support and approval. What, then, must be thought of the individual, assuming to be a gentleman, a scholar, a *statesman*, who embodies his ideas of political science in the novel truth, that Irishmen could live upon *nothing*, while Scotchmen required the especial patronage of Government! and, to render this emphatic truth more obvious to his illiterate hearers, have recourse to the expedient of waving a *yellow* handkerchief? And yet, the Hon. Mr. Haviland, who styles himself a "constitutional lawyer," is reported to have uttered at the meeting at Montague Bridge nonsense like this, and to have acted in the ridiculous manner above described. It is needless to comment upon the part which the immaculate W. H. Pope and others of the Government acted at that meeting, further than to say that it was in accordance with the doctrine of the Hon. Mr. Haviland. The Colonial Secretary may assure us that there can only be a Protestant and a Catholic party in this Island; but the intelligence coming from *him*, is treated with derision and contempt from one end of the Island to the other. It appears that the unequivocal voice of the people, expressed at the hustings, is required to convince this self-constituted monitor that he has quite mistaken his mission, and that his labours as a public servant can be very well dispensed with. In view of the non-fulfilment of the promises given to the people as to retrenchment, &c., &c., it is not surprising that the Government should cling with the tenacity of despair to the religious cry as the only plank by which to keep themselves afloat; for it cannot be concealed that the debt of the Colony has been largely increased during the past three years—that the country is ruled by secret despatches more so now than formerly—that the public expenditure has been increased—that the Land Question is yet unsettled—neither is an Elective Legislative Council nor the ballot system of voting established, and taxation has been increased. Slight wonder, then, that Protestants should be told to beware of their civil and religious liberty from the plottings of the hateful Liberals; but the Colonial Secretary must calculate largely on the credulity of those to whom he addresses *his warnings*, if he imagines they are to be duped by such wretched nonsense,—or that they are to be diverted from inquiring into the conduct of the "powers that be," by being assured that Catholics are to a man united against the Government. I think it might with truth and justice be said that W. H. Pope would care very little if Protestants and Catholics were to illustrate practically the reputed conduct of the Kilkenny cats, provided he himself be continued to enjoy the sweets of office and to preserve a whole skin. The words of the poet are applicable to him:—

"Should the whole frame of nature round him break
In ruin and confusion hurled,
He, unconcerned, would bear the mighty crack,
And stand secure amidst a falling world."

Let the members of the present Government, when their glory shall have departed from them at the next election, console themselves while in the shades of opposition by the reflection that any Government having nothing tangible in the shape of legislation to show after being four years in power, and whose political stock consists in an unnecessary and suspicious zeal for the religious liberty we enjoy, deserves to be consigned to the tombs of the capulets.

LIBERTAS.

Queen's County, May 12.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—As it is rumoured that there is to be an early election, and for the electors to take a review of the past, may serve as a lesson for the future: When the loan was not allowed, the Colonial Minister asked the proprietors if they intended to make concessions to settle the tenants, we did not hear the answer, and must refer to their actions. The main object of the proprietors was to get the Government and a House of Assembly to sell the tenants, and do this in such a way that the tenants would not suspect them. Therefore a secret alliance was formed to draw up plans, and provide means to lecture Protestants on the Bible question, and allow expenses to enable Catholics to oppose candidates who were favorable to settle the tenants; and also to march men from Queen's County to overawe the nomination for King's County. Thus, after two elections and a scrutiny to unseat liberal members, the proprietors secured themselves in the Government and a House of Assembly to agree to their measures.

The first session the resolutions which were passed for one commissioner to negociate with the proprietors; which resolution was not allowed consideration. The second session, three arbitrators, one to be named by each party, and commissioned by the Queen, were to settle the Land question. And the third session, at the instance of the Liberals, the Governor was requested to use his influence with the proprietors not to distress their tenants until the Award was agreed to. And the fourth session, a copy of the Commissioners' report was received, and an Act passed to confirm the forfeited titles!!

It should be borne in mind that two of the Commissioners had opposite interests in charge; but the three had to be unanimous. Now, to read the report attentively, it will be seen that there are two recommendations wide apart. The first and greatest part is a plain statement of the wrongs which the inhabitants of this Colony have endured, and the necessity of putting an end to it by doing justice to all parties. *In the second part, the proprietors'* titles are to be confirmed, and the tenants are to purchase their land at a price to be fixed by arbitrators, or to remain tenants. The main part of the report appears to have been the work of statesmen, who desired to have the inhabitants settled for the prosperity of the Colony and the honor of the Government. The lesser part of the report appears to have been the work of a lawyer, who, true to his profession, would not agree to the report unless his Award was included for the benefit of his clients. But the Imperial Government, having the evidence before them, can make out an Award that we will not have to complain of.

The settlement of the Land Question by Commissioners was a plan of the proprietors, and the Duke of Newcastle consented to it, subject to the following proviso: "I have to request you will ascertain and report to me whether the tenants of Prince Edward Island, or the House of Assembly on their behalf, are prepared to agree to the proposed reference." Now, the tenants were never consulted, and the House of Assembly were elected for a different purpose, viz: the Bible Question, and that office-holders should not sit in the House of Assembly. Therefore, the tenants have not agreed to the Award, and only a few of the proprietors; yet the Government have attempted to confirm proprietors' titles with a high hand, twenty-four against six. But the Governor is required to report these facts to the Colonial Minister.

The Earl of Selkirk sold his lands for a less sum than the arrears of rent which were then due; but the rest of the proprietors have either enforced payment, or taken obligations for the arrears; and therefore they must have anticipated that the Crown would resume the land, and settle the tenants. But confirming their titles will set them all agog until the Acts are disallowed.

WM. COOPER.

Charlottetown, April 28th, 1862.

Annual Report of the Charlottetown Gas-Light Company May 6, 1862.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE CHARLOTTETOWN GAS-LIGHT COMPANY:—

Gentlemen,—The usual period having arrived for your Directors to lay before you a statement of the Company's affairs, they do so by submitting the annual accounts, duly audited and found correct. These accounts would exhibit a much more satisfactory aspect but for the following circumstances. At the last annual meeting your Directors informed you that they had concluded a contract with the City Council, for lighting the streets and squares of the City with gas. The terms of the contract were made with a Committee of three members of the Corporation, appointed by the City Council for that purpose; and as they desired that the Company should lay down additional pipes and erect lamps and posts in places throughout the City, which would entail a considerable expense upon the Company, your Directors objected to comply with these terms, unless the contract should be made for a longer period than one year. The gentlemen forming that Committee stated that they had not the power to enter into a written contract for more than one year, but they assured your Directors that if the necessary lamps, &c. were fixed as they desired, there was no doubt about the contract being renewed.

Acting upon this assurance, and with full faith in the City Council performing what their own Committee, in a manner, had pledged them to do, your Directors lost no time in transmitting orders to England for the necessary pipes, lamps, &c., and upon their arrival erecting the same, in accordance with the wishes of the City Council, at an additional expense of about £300, exclusive of upwards of £300 expended for a similar purpose in the two previous years.

Your Directors, however, were much surprised to learn that the City Council refused to renew the contract, notwithstanding that the Company had, under their directions, laid down a considerable quantity of pipes for the purpose of supplying two additional lamps, only one month previous to the expiration of the contract, at a cost of £75 to the Company, over and above the additional loss of an annual rent of £4, paid by Admiral Bayfield, so long as the main gas pipe did not extend beyond his premises.

The plant has been maintained in its original efficiency. All sums for repairs and extension of capital having been, as usual, charged in the accounts as part of the ordinary working expenses of the year. An order for a new roof for the Retort House has been sent to England, and the necessary material may shortly be expected, the cost of which will also have to be defrayed out of the annual profits.

An arrangement has been made with a firm in England, to obtain a yearly supply of rich Cannel Coal, a sample of which was obtained last fall, for the purpose of improving the quality of the gas.

Should you decide upon declaring a dividend, we would suggest that it be at the rate of two-and-a half per cent, payable on and after the first day of July next.

JAMES ANDERSON, President.
T. H. HAVILAND, FREDK. BRECKEN,
G. W. DE BLOIS, DANIEL DAVIES,
JOSEPH HENSLEY, GEO. BEER.

MR. DUCHEMIN'S BLOCK AND SHEAVE.—Capt. Clark, of the "Light Boat," while in Boston, pretty thoroughly tested one of Mr. Duchemin's blocks in loading his vessel, and speaks highly in its praise. He also stated that a sheave of Mr. Duchemin's invention was pitted against one of the American patent sheaves, of the same size, in raising five tons of marble, and while Mr. Duchemin's came through the ordeal unscathed, the American was torn to pieces. Capt. Clark furnished written testimonials as to the efficacy of the new block and sheave.—R. WEEKLY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HEAVEN.

Beyond these chilling winds and gloomy skies,
Beyond death's cloudy portal,
There is a land where beauty never dies,
And love becomes immortal.

A land whose light is never dimmed by shade,
Whose fields are ever vernal;
Where nothing beautiful can ever fade,
But blooms for aye, eternal.

We may not know how sweet the balmy air,
How bright and fair its flowers;
We may not hear the songs that echo there,
Through those enchanted bowers.

The city's shining tower we may not see,
With our dim earthly vision;
For death, the silent warder, keeps the key,
That opes these gates elysian.

But sometimes, when adown the western sky
The fiery sunset lingers,
Its golden gates swing inward noiselessly,
Unlocked by unseen fingers.

And while they stand a moment half ajar,
Gleams from the inner glory
Stream brightly through the azure vault afar,
And half reveal the story.

Oh, land unknown! oh, land of love divine!
Father all wise, eternal, [mine
Guide, guide these wandering, way wornfeet of
Into those pastures vernal.

THE VOICELESS.

We count the broken lyres that rest
Where the sweet wailing singers slumber;
But o'er their silent sister's breast
The wild flowers who will stoop to number?
A few can touch the magic string,
And noisy Fame is proud to win them!
Alas for those that never sing,
But die with all their music in them!

Nay, grieve not for the dead alone
Whose song has told their heart's sad story;
Weep for the voiceless, who have known
The cross without the crown of glory!
Not where Leucadian breezes sweep
O'er Sappho's memory-haunted billow,
But where the glistening night-dews weep
On nameless sorrow's churchyard pillow.

O hearts that break and give no sign
Save whitening lip and fading tresses,
Till Death pours out his cordial wine
Slow-dropped from misery's crushing presses;
If singing breath or echoing chord
To every hidden pang were given,
What endless melodies were poured,
As sad as earth, as sweet as heaven!

A ROMANTIC STORY ABOUT THE PRINCE OF WALES.—There never yet was a Prince of Wales who was not said to have privately made a love match by himself while Ministers were looking round the royal families of the Continent for a suitable and politic consort for him. We suppose it is in compliance with the romance usually associated with the heir apparent for the time being, that the ingenuous eldest son of her Majesty is also reported to be at the present moment, and indeed, for the last six months, married to a fair subject. Such a story does exist at least in the Irish capital, where the enthraller of the Prince's heart and recipient of his troth, is said to be a beautiful young Hibernian lady, whom he met and fell in love with during his sojourn for military training at the Curragh. It will be remembered that his Royal Highness had appropriated to him, a little removed from the main line of tents which formed the encampment, a neat hut, with a pretty little garden attached to it. Though he had everything to make him comfortable here, they say that during the idle days and long evenings he sometimes cantered off to see some of the leading gentry of Kildare, whose demesnes fringe the great plain on which the Prince was stationed. To one of those houses in particular, and which was inhabited by a family of ancient and almost historic standing, his horse's head was oftenest turned; and his visits became so frequent that they ceased to be formal. Nothing was suspected by the Prince's Mentors in the camp, as the owner of the mansion was one of the most agreeable of Irish gentlemen, and it was thought that his society had a natural charm for the scion of royalty; until one afternoon, two young ladies gallopped over the green sward, pulled up in front of the Prince's hut, and the alacrity with which he came out to meet them, and his particular manner to the younger one attracted the attention of an officer in high rank, who happened at the moment to be calling on the Prince, and who being a veteran in love as well as war, fancied he saw something more than the mere politeness of a young Prince to a young lady. The visits were repeated, and they were also seen riding about the country. All this might have been; and nothing more natural than that a young fellow, whatever his rank, should like to vary the monotony of country and camp life with ladies' society. The Dublin gossips, however, go farther with the story, and tell you that in a certain little church, not many miles from Newbridge (the next town to the Curragh), there were one morning united in matrimony two young people, one of whom was the lady in question, and the other somebody at least very like the heir apparent to the throne of Great Britain, the only other parties present being, besides the clergyman, a brother officer of the Prince, and the bride's brother. Nay, one old lady in Dublin declared to us that the Queen and the late lamented Prince Consort were made aware of the fact just before quitting Ireland, when they visited Killarney in autumn. By the Royal Marriage Act, we need not say, such a union would be unlawful, but the Dublin story-teller assures you that so rapt up in this beautiful Irish bride is the Prince, that this journey of his to the East, which was determined upon before the Prince Consort's death, was suggested by the latter as a means of weaning him from "his foolish attachment," upon the principle of "out of sight out of mind!"—But nothing will do, added our informant; the young Prince's "heart untravelled fondly turns" towards a certain old mansion on the confines of the Curragh, and which holds "what is dearer to him than his future crown!" the fair object of his thoughts almost daily receiving a letter from under her youthful and royal lover's hand. I do not vouch for the truth of this story. I only vouch for the fact that such a story exists amongst the gossips of Dublin—*Court Circular.*

AN ANECDOTE OF NAPOLEON.—About three thousand workmen are now being employed in the completion of the Louvre, in Paris, and it is said that Louis Napoleon takes great interest in the progress of their labours, and visits the scene sometimes on foot and sometimes with a cigar in his mouth. A correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* relates the following incident which occurred during one of his visits:

One of the workmen, about three weeks ago, in an interval of recreation after their lunch offered to wager three hundred francs that he would light his pipe by the Emperor's cigar. A large group near him clubbed immediately, and cried' done.'—It happened that the Emperor appeared the next day, and smoking. The betters pushed forward their man, whose assurance nearly failed at the pinch. However, he accosted his Majesty, and hat in one hand, pipe in the other, requested and obtained permission to speak—'I have laid a wager.' 'And what have I to do with that, my friend,' said the Emperor. The case was then stammered out; the other parties forming an eager circle. Louis Napoleon laughed; put his hand into his pocket, drew forth a bank bill of five hundred francs, and said. 'My worthy fellow, you have lost; here, take this to pay your debt, and buy matches for your pipe.'—*Vive l' Empereur!* shouted the winners. He is familiar enough with the multitude. But the wager was a precedent he was not disposed to encourage. Cheek by jowl seemed a little too close for his dignity.

A DUTCHMAN DRAWS ON A BUSINESS FIRM FOR A WIFE.—The Cleveland (O.) Herald is responsible for the following:—"A few days since a respectable business firm on Water street received a letter from a customer near Youngstown, inclosing an order for—a wife. The customer was rich, middle-aged, a Dutchman, and a widower. He said he wanted a wife right off, and had no time to look up one for himself, but should be in town in the course of a day or two to marry the woman which he depended on his city friends to have ready for him. Such an order rather took the merchants aback, but the man was too good a customer to disoblige. As they had no supply of the article on hand, for sale, one of the firm went out to hunt it up, and at an intelligence office got track of a girl who could speak German and English, was tolerably good looking, and very much wanted to find a husband. A bargain was struck. The Duthman came in yesterday, found the article ready for him, approved of it, got married, and took his curious purchase home with him. We did not learn whether the firm charged a special fee or per centage commission on the market value of the article."

CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—A woman died at Newton, L. I., on Thursday evening of last week, after four days suffering, from hydrophobia. It is said that she was bitten or scratched in January last by a cat, which, it is supposed, had been bitten by a mad dog. The cat for some time acted strangely, but no particular notice was taken of it. One day she suddenly leaped upon the arm of her mistress, and held so tightly with her claws that a neighbor, who happened to be in the house, was compelled to use considerable strength to pull the animal off. The wounds made by the cat's claws healed up, and no unpleasant consequences ensued until Monday week ago, when a spasmodic attack began, which was declared by a physician to be clearly hydrophobia in its character.

ARMOUR CLAD SHIPS PROVED VULNERABLE.

It will be seen from our impression this evening how quickly the artillerists of the day have verified our anticipations by reasserting the power of guns against ships. A week ago the science of attack seemed to be fairly surpassed by the science of defence. Both the iron-cased ships engaged in the American battle had been proof against every kind of gun employed in the action, and, as these vessels were known to be but imperfect fabrics of their kind, while the ordnance used was of modern pattern and approved construction, it was a necessary inference for the time that the artillerists had been vanquished. The tables, however, have been already turned. On Tuesday afternoon Sir William Armstrong produced a gun at Shoeburyness which sent its shots right through the most impregnable target yet constructed—a target, in fact, presenting an exact reproduction of the sides of the Warrior. It follows, therefore, that a vessel undoubtedly stronger than those which were found invulnerable in the American battle must be regarded as invulnerable no longer. What renders this even more remarkable is that there has been no new discovery made. The result has been achieved, not by any scientific invention, but simply by resort to an old-fashioned and familiar expedient. Fortunately, the story can be told in very popular language, and it is certainly not a little curious to observe that the theory of projectiles and the explosive power of gunpowder constitute, both in Parliament and out of Parliament, one of the most interesting topics of the day.

If a ship could be made absolutely impregnable to shot, guns would lose their value. An iron-cased frigate under such conditions could defy our fleets and shore batteries as successfully as if those defences mounted no guns at all. Consequetnly, as these conditions seemed in a fair way of establishment, alarm was naturally felt for the efficacy of the defences on which we had hitherto relied, and we seemed confined to the alternative of building invulnerable ships ourselves, or constructing monstrous cannon to be placed on stationery forts. None of the guns used in America could damage either the Monitor or the Merrimac. None of the guns used in England could damage a target representing the Warrior's broadside. In America shot ranging from 110lb. to 180lb. in weight had been thrown both from rifled and unrifled guns. In this country we had employed 68-pounders, 100-pounders, and 200-pounders, but with no kind of success. On both sides of the Atlantic the guns were beaten and the Americans, in a kind of despair, set about forging a gun to carry a 1,000lb. shot as if to see what that would do. Now, the simple expedient by which these designs have been obviated is that of increasing the gun's charge. "Put a little more powder in," is the very commonplace recipe for bringing the powder of a gun up to the mark desired. Hitherto, rifled ordnance has been held to admit of considerable economy in this respect, and whereas the smooth-bore 68-pounder was fired with 16lb. of powder, the 110-pounder rifled gun had a charge of only 14lb. The results of these charges, as might be supposed, gave a superiority of velocity, within certain limits of range, to the lighter projectile; but if the charges had been equalized the rifled gun, we are told, would have had rather the advantage.

What Sir William Armstrong has now done is this—he has constructed a gun not only large enough to carry a heavy ball, but it strong enough to bear a heavy charge. This gun, as actually used on Tuesday, carried only a 156lb. shot,—that is to say, a shot lighter by one sixth than the balls thrown by the Monitor; but whereas the Monitor's guns were charged with only 12lb of powder, the new Armstrong piece was loaded with 40lb. The effects were astounding. At the very first discharge the hitherto impregnable Warrior target was smashed into fragments, teak and iron together. A second discharge was attended with like results, and when, at the third shot, the charge was increased to 50lb. of powder, and the gun levelled against an undamaged plate, the ball crashed through every layer of wood and iron with a force utterly irresistible. Necessarily the conclusion is that not only such Ironsides as the Americans have constructed, but far stronger ships like our own Warriors, are in reality vulnerable, and may under certain conditions of attack, be pierced by shot. This is much the same conclusion as was reached 18 months ago.

The first consideration, however, suggested by the present results concerns the character of the successful gun. Is it of such a description as can be safely manufactured and conveniently used? Can it be always relied upon for such performances, and can it be used at sea as well as on shore? To these queries we can collect an answer from the words of Sir William Armstrong himself, who, as our readers yesterday saw, has told his own story. The gist of the whole matter lies in the charge of powder. Sir William enunciates it as a deduction from his calculations and experiments, that "the battering effect at close quarters is pretty nearly proportionate to the quantity of powder used, and very little is either gained or lost by rifling the gun or increasing the weight of the projectile." The simplicity of this new principle at the present stage of the controversy is quite extraordinary, and there will be no difficulty in following it out. As the effect produced is in proportion to the charge of powder, and as the amount of powder which can be used is limited by the strength of the gun, it follows that we must have a very strong, and therefore a very ponderous, piece of ordnance to produce the effect now desired. Otherwise, according to Sir William's theory, the mere weight of the shot would be of no great consequence; but, as the gun must needs be made larger and heavy to carry the powder, it carries also a ball to correspond. The new gun, which was ultimately loaded with more than trice the charge of a 68-pounder, it is not quite three times its weight. It weighs 240cwt., whereas the 60-pounder weighs but 95cwt. It is 14 feet in length, and has a diameter of 10½ inches at the muzzle. If rifled it would throw an elongated bolt of twice the weight of the shot used on Tuesday, and instead of being a 156-pounder gun would become a 300-pounder.

We can now understand the inefficacy of the American ordnance. The enormous guns of the Monitor carried a charge of 12lb. only, so that the ball was but feebly propelled, and glanced harmlessly from the iron roof of the Merrimac. Even the Merrimac herself, whose guns were more efficient, used but 21lb of powder to a 120lb ball, and thus perhaps the strange results of the battle are in some measure accounted for. At the experiments on Tuesday an Armstrong gun was so loaded as to render it about the equivalent of 180-pounder Dahlgren, and it was found to produce no effect at all. But the question is whether the charge of a Dahlgren gun is necessarily so limited, or whether either of the American belligerents, by using a little more powder, might have changed the fate of the day. An Armstrong gun has now thrown a lighter shot than that of the Dahlgren gun with incredibly greater effect, simply by increasing the charge of powder, and the problem therefore at present is to find the piece of ordnance which will sustain the heaviest charge with the least weight of its own. It will not be long, we may be sure, before more is heard on this subject, but in the interval we may remark that the controversy, if it can still be so termed, between Wooden and Iron Ships, remains where it was. An Iron-plated Ship may appear less absolutely efficient, but a Wooden Ship is comparatively as unserviceable as before.—*London Times.*

A PROBABLE CHRONOLOGY.

1860. Mr. Armstrong, of Newcastle-upon Tyne, invents rifled ordnance that will knock any ship to pieces. He is knighted, and the Admiralty is benighted. 1861. The Admiralty recovers, and invents iron ships that resist any known cannon-balls. 1862. Sir William Armstrong invents a gun that smashes the iron ships into blacksmith-ereens. The Admiralty collapses. 1863. The Admiralty re-expands, and invents platina ships fastened with diamond cement, and Sir William Armstrong's balls fly to pieces like bon-bons. Mr. Gladstone doubles the income-tax. 1864. Sir William Armstrong invents brazen thunder-bolts (supposed to be the original Jupiters) and in a pleasing experiment sends the greater part of the British fleet to the bottom of the sea. 1865. The Admiralty invents torpedo vessels which sail under water, and below any range of guns. Sir William Armstrong tears his hair and swears in the Newcastle dialect. 1866. Sir William Armstrong invents a vertical gun that discharges Greek fire straight down, and a second time he destroys the greater part of the British fleet. The Lords of the Admiralty are about to hang themselves, when a thought strikes them, and they don't. Mr. Gladstone again doubles the income-tax. 1866. Dr. Cumming, who has for some weeks been having in his coals by the sack only, suddenly proclaims the Millennium. As there is now to be peace everywhere, the Admiralty does not invent anything, but waits to see. In order to test Dr. Cumming's veracity, and to find whether lions will lie down with kids, the Zoological Society (against the advice of their excellent Secretary, Mr. Sclater), let loose their biggest lion while a charity school is in the gardens. As the lion instead of lying down with a kid, only lies down to digest him, the Admiralty thinks there is some mistake somewhere, and determines to invent a new fleet. Mr. Gladstone once more doubles the income-tax. 1868. The Admiralty invents a stone fleet with cork keels, and defies Sir William Armstrong. 1869. Sir William Armstrong invents the Hannibal, or alp-shell, which contains the strongest vinegar, and melts the stone ships. Having for the third time destroyed the British fleet, he is raised to the peerage as Lord Bomb. 1870. The Admiralty invents an aerial fleet which sails in the clouds, out of shot-range, and the first Lord takes a double sight at Sir William Armstrong. Mr. Gladstone a fourth time doubles the income-tax. 1871. Lord Bomb invents a balloon battering-train, and in an experimental discharge brings down all the British fleet into the German Ocean. 1872. The Admiralty, in desperation, invents a subterranean fleet which is to be conveyed by tunnels to all the colonies, but Mr. Gladstone blandly suggested that, as everybody now pays twice his income in taxes, the people may object to further imposts unless some proof of economy is given. Government therefore, stop the pensions of 100 superannuated clerks, discharge some extra night-porters at the Treasury, and bring in estimates for the subterranean fleet. 1873. Lord Bomb invents his typhæons, or earthquake shell, and suffocates the British fleet in the Tasmania Tunnel. Mr. Gladstone a fifth time doubles the income-tax. 1874. The Emperor of the French proclaims the Millennium, which of course immediately occurs; no more war-ships are wanted, and the collectors remit the quarter's income-tax not yet due. Lord Bomb invents his volcano fireworks in honor of the occasion, and by some accident burns up the public.—'*Punch.*'

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 19th. 1862.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

THE R. M. Steamship "Niagara" arrived at Halifax from Liverpool, G. B., on the 14th inst. The British Mails for this Island reached here on Friday morning last. Latest dates are to the 4th inst. The opening of the International Exhibition is the event of most prominence noticed in the English papers. The continental news is not of much importance, yet some interesting items may be gleaned, of which we have given a selection below.

British sympathy in its most practical form is now challenged by the cry which comes from the North. There never was a more active or industrious population than that which peoples the counties of Lancaster and York; and we cannot now permit ourselves to forget the manner in which our comforts have been multiplied by the energies of their manufacturing population. From no fault of the people themselves, or of their fellow countrymen, but solely as the result of the American civil war, the supply of the raw material, upon which the industry of Lancashire depends for its development, has been stopped.

It is not unimportant to notice, in connection with this report, that very extensive preparations are being made to transport a large number of troops across the Atlantic — ostensibly to Vera Cruz — and Vera Cruz is not very far from New Orleans.

We should not have attached much importance to the rumored intervention, if the tone of the leading morning paper, which is believed to reflect, to a large extent, the personal sympathies of Lord Palmerston, had not undergone a remarkable change.

Now, it must be borne in mind that intervention in the affairs of America means War with America. It means this or it means nothing. If moral influence in the present state of the contest will not be listened to—and we are sure that they will not—physical force to preserve the dignity of the two countries must be adopted. England and France cannot interfere in this quarrel without provoking the undying hostilities of the North, and the North, be it remembered, crippled as it is, still represents more than twenty millions of as energetic and inventive people as any on the face of the globe.

While the fate of the North and South is still trembling in the balance, and events are impending or have actually occurred which may decide the issue of the contest, there are rumours on this side of the Atlantic that the two great Western Powers of Europe are about to interfere to bring the civil war to a close.

The Globe of last night, on the authority of its Paris correspondent, puts forth the following statement, which, if true, — and the writer is usually well informed, — will have a material influence on the struggle of which the Southern States is now the theatre:—"It is stated here that Napoleon III. has, through the instrumentality of Senor Mon, convinced the Spanish Government that slavery can no longer be upheld at Cuba, and that the knell of negro ownership has tolled.

OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Our second Great International Exhibition was opened at South Kensington on the 1st, with all befitting ceremony, and with even more than hoped-for success. Everything happened as it was arranged and expected, with all but the regularity of clockwork. The day indeed had one dark shadow. Of the hundreds of thousands who lined the streets and thronged the buildings, few forgot the Prince by whom the great work of the day was encouraged and helped on — who sowed, but reaped not: and many were the kindly and regretful words spoken of the Royal Lady, who would have been so gladly welcomed, and who was so sorely missed.

On the north side of the eastern dome lies the north east transept—running into and in a line with the eastern annexe. Here the British Colonies are placed. The Eastern, Australasian, African, Mediterranean, North America, and West Indian possessions are all well represented, and the trophies include a gilded pyramid from Victoria, 40 feet high, representing in bulk all the gold sent from that colony; a timber column from Tasmania, 80 feet high; a section of coal from Nova Scotia; a timber structure formed of native woods from New Brunswick, and a trophy of Canadian timber.

FRANCE.

PARIS, May 2.—The Journal l'Esprit Public of to-day says that there is a question of sending Marshal Niel to Rome with military and diplomatic powers. It is said that he will be charged to conciliate, if possible, the protection which France owes to the Holy See, with the rights of the Italian nation.

The Emperor of the French is anxious to reduce his army, which is a good sign, but he is opposed in this respect by the Corps Legislatif, so that the representatives of the people are really less anxious for lessening the pressure of taxation than the monarch himself. In that body, on Tuesday, the proposition to reduce the army to the extent of 20,000 men only met with nine supporters.

THE POPE'S SUCCESSOR.

A letter from Turin affirms that the Pope has arranged with the Cardinals that he should, prior to the approaching convocation in Rome, name him whom he would desire to be his successor; and that the choice has fallen upon Cardinal de Angelis, Archbishop of Parma.

ITALY.

TURIN, May 2.—It is asserted that the Italian Government has granted the concession for the construction of railways in the South of Italy to a society of foreign and Italian bankers, represented by Messrs. Rothschild. The capital of the society is 300,000,000 francs.

MEXICAN INTERVENTION.

MADRID, May 1.—The statement that the Spanish and French troops were about to march against Mexico has been favorably received here.

PARIS, May 2.—The 'Moniteur' of this morning publishes a letter from Mexico commenting upon the intolerable conduct of the Mexican Government, and the probability that the French troops will not delay marching on the city of Mexico.

THE INTERVENTION IN AMERICA.

It was reported at Paris yesterday that the French and English Ministers at Washington had received identical instructions to attempt a moral intervention, but no idea of a forcible intervention is entertained.

THE RETURN OF GENERAL GOYON.

PARIS, May 2.—The 'Constitutionel' of to-day's date contains the following:—The return of General Goyon has provoked exaggerated suppositions. We believe that the journals which have looked upon the return of General Goyon as a serious indication of a change in Roman affairs are laboring under a delusion. We are persuaded that nothing has been changed, because nothing can be changed, in the policy of the French Government towards Rome.

INDIA.

BOMBAY, April 12.—The Calcutta merchants have petitioned in favor of, and the Bombay merchants against, the repeal of the import duties. The Government is said to be divided on the subject. The majority are for doing away with the income tax. Mr. Morehead has declined a seat in the Supreme Council on account of ill-health. The cotton crop in Bombay is shorter and of worse quality than that of last year. Thomas Buckland, attorney of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, has been sentenced to eight years penal servitude for forgery.

(From the London Daily Telegraph, April 30.)

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The contents of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island courts have been disposed in a fashion which is exceedingly picturesque, and leaves little room for finishing strokes of artistic arrangement. Few Colonies, if we consider the comparative insignificance of the settlement in point of size and population, can boast a more creditable display than Prince Edward Island; and there are none of its objects which will be regarded with greater interest than those which have been produced by the aboriginal Indians. The Micmac tribe has sadly dwindled down in numbers and importance; only but three or four hundred of its children yet survive; but there is ample proof before us that these poor fellows retain a singular delicacy of handiwork, and even a certain wild