Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Mr. Editor—A few words on Mr. Howe's exposition of the Award of the Land Commission by one who has had an opportunity of hearing what the people say about it, may not be unacceptable to your readers. The general opinion, as far as I have been able to gather it, is, that the Award is a failure. The people are sadly disappointed. Even the most moderate and least sanguine have to confess that it confers fewer benefits on the tenantry, and is more favourable to the proprietors, than they expected or hoped. Those who are most interested in propping up the tottering cause of the present Proprietary and Tory Government, are forced to admit that it must receive some cobbling from our Legislature before it can become law. Some parts of the Award they do not even attempt to justify, but maintain a most discreet silence with regard to its most objectionable features. When forced to speak of them they slur them over, and hasten to expatiate on what they are pleased to term the *beauties* of the Award. But it is hard work. It is quite evident that, much as they have striven, they have not yet been able to deceive *themselves* as to its real nature; and the tenantry, keenly alive to their own interest, treat with the most supreme contempt the flimsy arguments brought forward to support it.

The prevalent disappointment and discontent are by the Tories attributed to the arts of the Liberal party. That party, say they, raised the hopes of the tenantry to unreasonable height, in hopes of benefitting by the agitation that the promulgation of the most favorable award would occasion among a people thus practised upon. Now, this is quite a mistake; or, as is much more likely, a wilful misrepresentation. During the sitting of the Commission, and for a long time after, none were more sanguine of the good to be done by it than these same Tories. Witness the addresses presented to the Governor by the inhabitants of several districts in which the supporters of the present Government most abound. In every one of these addresses confidence in the results of the labours of the Commissioners is expressed in the strongest terms. It it were necessary I could mention the names of several influential Conservatives who have done more to raise the expectations of the tenantry than the whole of the Liberal party put together. Indeed, were it not that the *Examiner* had prepared the public mind for the unsatisfactory nature of the award, the shock would have been much more violent, and the Government would have come in for a far greater share of blame than now falls to it. But you, Sir, will get little thanks from an ungrateful Government for having endeavored to break its fall.

The award of the Land Commissioners sets at rest another accusation against the Liberals, which has been echoed and re-echoed by their enemies. It is this, that the Liberals have kept up the agitation of the Land Question for merely factious purposes. That they have no wish to settle it, or to see it settled. Now, it will be seen by Mr. Howe's exposition of the award, that the best public solution of the Land Question difficulty was presented to the Tory party for their approbation and support some years ago, but they, instead of laying aside all party animosities and cordially co-operating with their political opponents for the public good, did all that lay in their power to frustrate the well-meant endeavours of those opponents to ameliorate the condition of the tenantry by the means proposed. I allude to the Loan and Land Purchase Bills, now declared by Messrs. Gray, Howe and Ritchie to be a solution "of existing difficulties far above and beyond all others, the best." Yet, who does not remember how this "best" solution was treated by the Tories? The *Islander*, their organ, exhausted its vocabulary of abusive expletives—and a pretty extensive one it was—against the law, its framers and supporters. All sorts of arguments were used to prejudice the people against it. Not a single member of the Tory party, if my memory serves me, supported it. Now, all this opposition was honest and sincere or it was dishonest and factious. The then opposition either considered the measure a bad one, and for that reason denied it their support, or they opposed it, not because it merited their opposition, but because it was introduced by their political antagonists. On the former supposition, with all their boasted talent and intelligence, they failed to discern the true means of extricating the tenantry from their difficulties, and so proved themselves to be wanting in political foresight and sagacity; and on the latter, in spite of their loud professions of purity of motive and freedom from mere party prejudices, they acted the part of wrong-headed partisans, who were ready to commit any folly and sacrifice any interest rather than help to strengthen the credit, and increase the influence of the opposite party in politics. It is now evident that the Tories, either from stupidity or stubbornness, prolonged the agitation of the Land Question for several years. Not only so, but they have been the means of increasing that agitation in a tenfold ratio, and of putting the country to a very considerable expense, both of which, had the proper means been used at the proper time, the Commissioners have declared to be needless.

But if circumstances render it impossible to settle the *Question* by an "extension of the principles of the Land Purchase Act," other remedies are proposed which bring the landlord and tenant into more immediate contact. Of these the general opinion seems to be that of an intelligent old gentleman himself, a freeholder and a Tory. It is this: "I do believe that if the matter had been left to the proprietors themselves the tenants would have been able to get their lands on easier terms." An act of grace is first proclaimed. The arrears of rent up to [illegible] are to be cancelled. But for the tenant who has been simple enough [illegible] his share proprietor securities, in the shape of notes of hand, judgment bonds, [illegible] payment of arrears, there is no remittance,—he must pay to the uttermost farthing. Besides, a very large class of the best of the tenantry will derive no benefit whatever from this part of the award, which puts no distinction between the dishonest and improvident tenant who has never paid a farthing of rent, and the honest and industrious one who has regularly and religiously performed all the conditions of his lease. This latter will have to pay to the full as much for the freehold of his farm as the former, though he may have paid to his landlord in the shape of rent twice as much as his lazy neighbour will have to give for the fee-simple of his land. Then, again, if the present state of the land be made the basis of valuation, a still greater and more glaring injustice is done the enterprising and industrious tenant. But this leads me to another part of my subject, namely, the provision made in the award for the purchase of lands held under lease. As it is agreed on all hands that the twenty years' rent valuation is by far too high, I need not say much on this head, further than that I cannot but think that part of the award seriously defective which makes no provision for a poor man's purchasing the freehold of his land, except he first engage in a *lawsuit*—for the much praised arbitration scheme is nothing more nor less than an appeal to law, accompanied by all the ill-will, uncertainty and anxiety which such appeals occasion to those engaged in them.

Let us suppose the tenant and his landlord at variance, as they most assuredly will be, as to the price to be paid for the land held by the former. Let us suppose further that each has appointed his arbitrator, and that they, too, cannot agree as to the value to be put on the land under arbitration. How are they to choose an umpire? It is not at all likely that the proprietor's arbitrator will agree to elect a tenant's friend, or that the tenant's will consent to choose another *creature* of the proprietors. Is there any provision in the award to compel them to come to a decision? The answer is, that there is not—that it is here that our House of Assembly will have to interfere to supply the want left by the Commissioners. Has our Legislature the power to legislate upon the award—to supply what is defective in it, and to lop off its redundancies? I think not. It will be the business of that body either to confirm the award, as it comes from the hands of the Commissioners, or to refuse to confirm it. Its power, in my opinion, goes no farther. But let us imagine that by some means or other this difficulty of choosing a third man is surmounted—how are the arbitrators now to proceed to value the land? If its present state, made valuable by the occupant's improvements and those of his neighbours, be taken as the basis of valuation, a manifest injustice is done to the tenant, yet the choice of any other standard of value is surrounded by such a host of objections and difficulties as to render it impossible for any arbitrators, however honest and intelligent, to come to such a decision as will be satisfactory to either of the parties concerned. I anticipate nothing from the working of the arbitration clause but endless disputes, grievous heart-burnings, sore discontents, and expensive litigations.

It was my intention, when I began, to say something about the equivalents granted by the award to the proprietors for the *favours* accorded to the tenantry, but as I have already trespassed too far on your space and on the patience of your readers, I must take another opportunity of writing a few words on that most interesting part of the subject.

Yours, &c.,

OBSERVER.

Lot 17, September 16, 1861.

PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN REFERENCE TO MAKING KNOWN THE RESOURCES OF THE COLONY.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir—One of the advantages which we were told would accrue to this Colony from the visit of the Prince of Wales, was, that we would become extensively known to British emigrants and capitalists. It was said that when our capabilities were discovered they would be duly appreciated, and that certainly some drops from the great stream of European immigration would make their way here, whilst capitalists would be speedily induced to invest their money in developing our industrial resources.

Notwithstanding the heralding of these high hopes, our Government remained inactive in preparing a suitable reception for the Prince and suite, until spurred to it by the example of our neighbouring Colonies. They seemed utterly devoid of the least ability to act in any manner on the subject. At length they saw the programme of the Government of Nova Scotia, and then began to copy from it. Like nearly all imitations, ours in many points was a burlesque on the reception given to the Prince in Nova Scotia. The lavish expenditure of £3000 made P. E. Island appear somewhat like the Frog in the Fable, which tried to be as large as the ox. The event has passed, and now let us ask what benefit the people derived from it at home—what fame or advantage did the Colony gain abroad? All that falsehood and malignity could invent against us—this and only this.

But another event approaches, and by prompt and proper action being taken, the world may know that we do not rate so low in the scale of civilization as the leading American and English journals represented a year ago. The *Times* will do us justice, and retract or qualify the animadversions and falsehoods of the correspondent who accompanied the Prince of Wales during the visit to the Colonies. The event is the International Exhibition of 1862. There the Colony can be made known to European emigrants and capitalists. There the genius and industry of man will appear in generous rivalry before the scrutiny and admiration of the world. Two years have London, Paris, New York and other chief cities been putting forth their talents, energy, and resources for the great event. Here, where our workmen labour under manifold disadvantages contrasted with those of older and wealthier countries, the Government appropriate the sum of £75, to encourage the sons of P. E. Island to have their country represented by specimens of their talent and industry at the World's Exhibition of 1862. Moreover, with this trifling amount—through the lethargy of the Government in not giving sufficient publicity to the subject—our agriculturists, artists and mechanics have but two months left in which to produce and prepare articles that may reflect credit on the Colony. Mr. D. Laird, for once in his editorial career, sensibly and courageously says in the *Protestant* of Saturday:

"If the Government purposed to assist in having the Colony represented at the World's Fair, they ought to have made it as generally known as possible months ago; but as they were slow in taking action in the matter, and the Royal Agricultural Society was almost as slow in communicating information to the public in regard to the aid towards its Industrial Exhibition, &c., promised it by the Government, we fear, unless more decided steps are taken from some quarter, that the Island will make but a very sorry display at the London Exhibition. There is even danger that it will not be represented at all. From an article in the *Times* of the 16th August, it appears that after the 30th of September inst. no application for further space will be received by the Commissioners, no matter from what quarter they may come. It adds, 'On this point there should be no misunderstanding, as we can assure those who are in that peculiar state of mental uncertainty known as 'making up one's mind,' that if it is not made up before the 30th Sept., they may save themselves all further trouble, for that is positively the last day of grace.'"

In reference to the quotation from the *Times*, the Lieut. Governor supposed that the article might not be written on the authority of those entrusted with the management of the Exhibition, and that the intimation about the time for application of space was intended for the readers of the *Times* in England, and not for the Colonies. The article is definite enough. It says: "after the 30th of September applications for space will not be received, *no matter from what quarter they may come.*" That it is on good authority the advertisement in the same No. of the *Times* immediately above the leading editorial—which somehow escaped the notice of His Excellency on Friday's meeting in the City Hall—over the signature of the Secretary of the Commission, F. R. Sanford, wherein it is stated—"the period for receiving demands for space expires on the 30th September," leaves not the slightest room for doubt.

Now, space for this Island has not been demanded. The Commissioners—though seven months have elapsed since they should have been appointed—have not yet been Gazetted. With the exception of a few whom the Government advised privately to complete the matter, is almost totally unknown outside the walls of the Colonial Building. Though the other Colonial papers for months have been filled with lists of prizes, encouraging competition from which selection will be purchased to represent the respective colonies at the Exhibition, our Government would apparently not have stirred in the matter, were it not they were roused to a sense of their duty by a few private individuals.

But it is death or extermination to blame the Government. They always have the interests of the Colony at heart, not their own. Let the City take care of itself while they ostricate in the country. Charlottetown has not yet presented His Excellency with an address; and then going to the country is such a nice way to indulge that fretful vanity which lays trape to catch compliments. Let the mechanics get up an address at once, thanking the Lieut Governor for the "warm," "lively" and spirited manner [illegible] which himself and "his Government" have acted in reference to the encouragement bestowed upon them to prepare articles for the Exhibition.

Flattery and humbug is the order of the day—and the Government should be thanked for their penny-wise and pound-foolish policy.

* * *

Sept. 16th, 1861.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—I find by the leading article in the last number of the *Examiner*, that you have given my name a somewhat prominent position in connection with a statement which you allege was made by me before the Royal Commissioners upon the Land question.

You assert that "the Hon. J. Longworth, one of the colleagues of Messrs. Gray and Palmer, stated to the Commissioners in open Court that twenty years' purchase would be only a fair price for land."

This announcement of a statement on my part so at variance with my own opinions and sentiments, and with what I knew to be the general bearing and character of my evidence before the Commissioners, surprised me not a little; and in referring to the notes of my evidence as taken by one of the accredited Reporters, Mr. Laird, and which are now in his hands, I find that no remark or statement made by me upon the occasion referred to can, either in word or spirit, bear any such interpretation as that given to it in the article in question.

I endeavoured in my evidence to represent to the Commissioners the difficulties that poor men, especially those occupying rear or interior farms, had in many cases to contend with—that many persons were, in fact, quite unable to pay their rents, and such being the case, that they would find it a matter of great difficulty to buy the freehold of their farms, unless the means were placed within their reach. That in regard to good front farms, or farms situated near a market, the occupant was in a better position; thus shewing that one uniform price could never with justice be put upon the Township lands of the Colony and pointing out the propriety of adopting something like a graduated scale of value in regard to them

I find, however, that one part of the report does not properly convey my meaning. In reply to the following question, put by Mr. Ritchie: "Do you think if time were given, a person could purchase at say 18 or 19 years' purchase?" I am reported as giving the following answer, viz:—"They could in general, though there are exceptional cases, such as the one we had last evening, where little or nothing could be paid." (Referring to the man, Carragher, who had appeared before the Court on a previous day.)

The above may have been what literally fell from my lips, and as Mr. Coles appears, by the report, to have made some objection to it, I do not much wonder at his having done so, if he understood the words as literally to carry my meaning. But the answer to represent my real meaning, taking together the whole of what was contained in my other answers, might more properly have been expressed thus:—"They might in some cases, but not generally, and there are exceptional cases, such as the one we had last evening, where little or nothing could be paid."

But supposing my language to have been as stated in this part of the report, it is manifest from the whole context, (as well that portion of my evidence which precedes as that which follows it), that the answer was inadvertently given. And as shewing this, I remember distinctly the circumstance of Mr. Coles interrupting me by some remark he made at the time, but which I thought was out of place, not being aware that I had made any statement in the slightest degree inconsistent with the previous part of my evidence.

In a former part of my examination I am reported as stating that "some few of the tenantry might be able to purchase the farms on which they reside, but this is mostly where there are strong families, and it is not a general rule throughout the Island. In many cases it becomes a matter of impossibility for a poor man to purchase his farm." And to the following question, put by Mr. Gray—"Do you think the people are not able to struggle through and purchase their tenures, unless they have a family or some such advantage, without a reduction being made?" my answer is reported to this effect:—"It is my opinion that for a man to begin in the woods with a small or weak family, to work on and make a purchase is next to impossible." And then, at the close of my examination, in reply to this question, put by Mr. Halliburton—"Do you think leaseholders generally are not able to purchase their farms?" I am reported to have given the following answer:—"Unless the parties have sea frontage, or some other such advantage, they are not able to convert their leaseholds into freeholds: generally speaking, those living in the interior are not able to become freeholders."

Those various statements shew plainly enough what my evidence was; and instead of its tendency being to place a high value upon Township land, the very contrary inference must have been drawn by the Commissioners from its whole tenor; and the same construction will be put upon it by any unprejudiced person who will take the trouble to read over the reporter's notes.

I regret that I have been obliged to go into such lengthy detail; but my evidence not having been yet published, I have had no other means of shewing the inaccuracy of your statement. That it has not been published is not of my choice or seeking; on the contrary, I made a formal application to the Reporter for that purpose in the early part of last winter, but he declined on the ground—(and which appeared to me to be an unobjectionable one)—that he could not publish it without doing an act of injustice to those persons whose examinations preceded mine, and yet remained in manuscript. When the report appears, as it will, I presume, shortly, I shall be quite content to abide by the verdict of the public on its character.

With regard to the purchase of the lands of this Colony by the tenantry, my own individual opinion then was, and still is, that sixteen years' purchase, as a general rule, applicable to all Township lands, would be quite too high, there being some parts of the Island where a much lower price would be greatly above the value; and if the Commissioners, by their award, had adopted any such rule, fixing a uniform price, even at this diminished rate, they would, in my opinion, have propounded a most arbitrary and unjust measure, and one which could not prove otherwise than injurious in its operation to vast numbers of farmers in the Island; but having adopted the principle of valuation by disinterested parties—fixing a certain rate as the extreme limit *beyond which* the price of the most valuable lands in the Colony can never be carried, (at least as respects the lands of the proprietors who are parties to the award, and we have the opinion of the Duke of Newcastle as to how far it may not be made binding upon the others), and leaving the price of each man's farm to be fixed by valuation—the question arises whether it would not be a prudent step for the Legislature to interpose its authority for the purpose of enabling the tenantry at large to avail themselves of the means of enforcing a purchase (under the valuation clause), even against the most unwilling landlord, by devising a cheap, safe and expeditious mode of working this branch of the award, in case the award itself, on its arrival here, shall be found not to contain the requirements necessary to ensure the appointment of an umpire, or otherwise to carry out provisions which the Legislature, upon a calm, deliberate and full consideration of its details, may deem essential to the well-being of the community at large.

But until the award itself can be placed before the people, it is impossible for them, or the best informed among us, to arrive at just conclusions in regard to its merits or defects; and therefore it seems to me to be premature to enter upon a general discussion of the subject at present.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

J. LONGWORTH.

Charlottetown, 19th September, 1861.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—In your leading article in the *Examiner* of the 2nd inst., writing on the Land Question, you say, "that nearly every tenant could effect the purchase of his farm on as good if not better terms than the award propounds." By way of illustrating this proposition you make use of a statement made by me before the Land Commission, to the effect that I would accept 15s. per acre for my Estate. It is true I did so, but with the important addition, that payment should be made in cash, or good negotiable securities, and for my whole estate, not single farms. When asked if I thought 15s. per acre a fair price to fix as a standard between individual tenants and myself as landlord, I strongly deprecated anything of the kind, for reasons which every small Proprietor clearly understands.

In conclusion, I may add that I have no intention of either withdrawing or qualifying my offer, and if my tenants can obtain a loan from the Government, or any other source, sufficient to buy me out on the terms above indicated, I shall not be disposed to stand out for the 20 years' purchase awarded by the Commissioners.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT POORE HAYTHORNE.

Marshfield, Lot 34, Sept. 13, 1861.

GEORGETOWN SMALL DEBT COURT.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir—That the Georgetown Small Debt Court is not what it used to be, is notorious. The removal of the Hon. Edward Thornton from the Commission is a calamity to be regretted by all who have business to do at the Court. On the first Tuesday in every month, as the disputing parties are going and returning from the Court-house in Georgetown, you will hear their bewailings and lamentation of the removal. Not one in fifty appears to have the least confidence in the wisdom or integrity of the present Commissioners to dispense impartial justice. Their names are becoming every month more and more a byeword in the people's mouth. We may be told that grumbling and dissatisfaction are peculiar traits in man's disposition, and that it is impossible for any public functionary to please all parties; but when repeated glaring partiality is shewn to political friends, and gross injustice [illegible] pointed out to political opponents, it is not [illegible] to be expected that British subjects will bear [illegible] ing in silence the maladministration of the law of their country. The honest minded and well disposed portion of all parties are uniting their voices in one general cry, that the present Commissioners of the Georgetown Small Debt Court are partial, incapable, and unfit men for the position they occupy. You will say this is hard talk without some proof, well Sir, we will instance as proof what is fresh in the minds of a number of persons, the trials and decisions of the court on Tuesday, the 3rd inst.

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OBSERVER.

King's County, 10th Sept., 1861.

[We have deemed it necessary and prudent to omit the illustrations in the above letter, as they involve the names of private parties. If we should publish "Observer's" remarks on the cases cited, we have no doubt we would be requested to publish some contradiction or explanation of them; and we have not space to give to the discussion of matters relating exclusively to private interests; nor would the majority of our readers give any attention to them if we encumbered our columns with them.—Ed. Ex'r.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., September 23, 1861.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The Steamship *Europa* arrived at Halifax on Wednesday morning last, with dates to the 7th inst. The mail for this Island reached here on Friday. The European news of a public character is unimportant.

Two terrible Railway accidents had occurred on two of the London suburban Railroads. By the first, 20 lives were lost, and many wounded; by the second 13 lives were lost and 70 wounded.

Lord Palmerston was installed with all the ancient ceremonies as Warden of the Cinque Ports, at Dover, on the 28th. In the speech he eulogises the strong defensive measures adopted by England, and said perfect defence was the only stable foundation of friendly relations with foreign powers; alluded to Bull Run as an evidence of the powerlessness of men individually brave, but imperfectly drilled and organized, against an enemy.

Earl Russell, in a manifesto on the Spanish occupation of St. Domingo, says American forbearance cannot be calculated upon as permanent.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY IN CANADA.

Her Majesty's Government has determined to make an important increase in the strength of our military force in North America, and three regiments of infantry are about to be placed under immediate orders for Canada. They will probably embark in the Great Eastern before the middle of the month. Owing to the absence of his Royal Highness the General Commander-in-Chief, no selection of the regiments for this duty can be made for a few days. It is very likely, however, that three old and thoroughly efficient battalions, the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, the 1st Battalions of 15th and the 96th Regiments, all at present at the Curragh, will be chosen. Probably one of the new regiments, now scarce inferior to any in the service, will be told off for Canada, as the 4th Battalion of the 60th Rifles was when the first addition to our exceedingly small force in the colony was made some two months since.

FRANCE AND ROME.

La Patrie publishes the following semi-official communication:—"A Belgian paper announces that the Marquis de Lavelette has visited London to concert with the English Government respecting the evacuation of Rome. We believe we may say that the announcement is completely inexact." *La Patrie* also publishes the following:—"A despatch from Rome of the 3d inst. informs us that strict orders have been sent to the French officers commanding detachments on the frontier to prevent any incursion of Piedmontese troops into the Roman territory. The same despatch announces the arrival at Civita Vecchia of the steam-frigate Cacique from Toulon with 900 soldiers on board. The Cacique had also many articles on board required by the French authorities at Rome in consequence of the prolongation, still for a long time to come, of our occupation."

La Patrie also announces that a French naval division will continue to cruise off the coast of Syria during the whole winter, for the protection of the Christians.

THREATENING NOTE FROM FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council has received a note from the French Government stating that it considers the scandalous affair which took place on the frontier of the canton of Geneva, on the 25th of August, as a violation of French territory. The note of the French Government demands satisfaction on this account, and indemnity to be paid to those wounded and arrested on that occasion.

EVACUATION OF MOROCCO BY SPAIN.

The *Epoca* contains a remarkable article, in which it says:—"In view of the present state of things in Europe it is necessary to evacuate Tetuan on honourable conditions, in order to allow of the concentration of the Spanish forces." The *Correspondencia Autografa*, in alluding to the above article, declares that no resolution has yet been taken on the question, but that it is not impossible that the Government entertains those views.

POLAND.

At Cracow, on the occasion of a funeral service for those who fell in the recent disturbances at Wilna, an arbitratary intervention by the police took place, and the trades-people were compelled to re-open their shops. Many persons were arrested.

LOSS OF THE BRITISH SHIP "ASIATIC" WITH FIFTEEN LIVES.

Sad details have been received of the foundering of the ship Asiatic, nearly 1,000 tons burden, while on her homeward voyage from Akyab to Falmouth, and the loss of the greater portion of her officers and crew. The survivors, nine in number, had reached the island of St. Helena, by the Hanoverian barque Olympia, Capt. Tobias, which picked them up on the morning after the loss of their ship. Capt. Watts, the commander, states that the Asiatic, on the 17th June, encountered a gale of a most threatening character. A terrific sea caught the ship, washed away port bulwarks, and everything on deck. Another sea struck the ship, which drove in the front of the poop and carried away all the internal fittings. The storm gradually became more furious, and the pumps, although kept constantly going, could not relieve the ship of much water. About half-past two on the following morning the ship fell on her broadside and commenced sinking. Captain Watts and eight of her crew had barely time to jump into the life-boat before the ship disappeared. She went down instantaneously. The survivors in the boat kept head to wind until daylight, using the bottom boards in the boat for paddles, having lost the oars. About five o'clock they saw a barque four miles distant, which proved to be the Olympia, which took them on board, and conveyed them to St. Helena. Several of the sufferers have left widows and families.

Russell's latest letter to the Times says the issue of America is rapidly narrowing to a contest between slavery and abolition, and thinks the President will soon declare all slaves within the limits of the United States army, free. The Times, editorially, advises compromise.

The public discontent regarding the award is beginning to act oppressively on those officers of the Government who have good salaries at stake. The lamentation of the Colonial Secretary in the last *Islander* may be safely taken as an echo of the dolorous feeling of the whole official band. They perceive the dark clouds swiftly rising in the political horizon—they hear the sullen sough of the winds—and they know the fate that awaits them when the storm shall have attained its crisis.

Even the Colonial Secretary, with all his effrontery, does not attempt to argue that the award is such as the people of the Colony expected. He tells us a long story about the origin of the Commission—how Col. Gray's resolutions led to that measure, and to what extent the award is based on those resolutions. His narrative, in the main, may contain some truth; but the great questions which the people ask among themselves—which are the subject of warm discussions at public meetings in all parts of the Island—and which will be put to the Government in thunder tones at the hustings—are, What advantages will the Award secure to us? What prospects does it afford of getting rid of the leasehold tenure, which we were assured would be the certain and speedy result of the Enquiry? Mr. Pope, by way of answer, refers the patient tenantry to the clause relating to the remission of rents, and to the arbitration project. With regard to the first, there must be accurate information given on a few points before we can attach any importance to that part of the award. We must learn first—Shall the Award affect only the five or six proprietors who consented to the Commission? The Duke of Newcastle has plainly said that none others can be affected by it without their consent. Secondly—What amount of rent is due that accrued prior to 1858 on the estates owned by those five or six individuals? The Agent of the principal estates has been extremely busy, especially since the Commission was instituted, in suing and distraining for rent; and if he did not get paid in cash by most of those against whom he took proceedings, we have every reason to believe that he has had the amounts secured; and Mr. Howe stated that securities obtained for back rents could not be affected by the award. But supposing that it were necessary or practicable to coerce other proprietors into the adoption of the principles of the Award—presuming that the Award will be confirmed—the tenants who are under short leases, who are unfortunately a numerous class, and who, by their poverty and the very nature of their tenures, stand more in need of relief than the holders of long leases—can look for no remission of rents either before or since 1858. The award makes a special exception against them. There is no consideration at all for the holders of short leases. On the other estates not subject to the award by consent, where the tenants hold long leases, there is no reason to believe that there is a great amount of rent due and owing prior to 1858. There is no doubt there are some old arrears, but in a majority of cases the landlords would secure payment, if they have not already done so, before there could be time to coerce them to adopt the award. The least attempt at coercion would drive them to stand upon all their legal rights; and it is absurd, therefore, to speculate on any advantages to the tenants from the remission of rents whose landlords are yet beyond the pale of the award, and who could only be brought under it by coercion. We may be told that it would not be necessary to use coercion with them—that they would cheerfully adopt the principles of the Commission, and accept the terms meted out to the other proprietors. We believe a majority of them would—for they would have everything to gain and nothing to lose by adopting the award; it proposes to settle their doubtful titles, sanction their usurpation of fishery reserves and loyalist lands, and cancel their indebtedness for quit rents; while their controul over their tenantry would be strengthened, and an inducement held out to put a high price on their lands. In short, the proprietors gain everything by adopting the award, and sacrifice nothing. In alluding to coercion, we are giving no opinion on that subject. According to Mr. Howe's statement, the Commissioners recommended it, and justify the resort to it by reference to the emancipation of the slaves in the West Indies and the abolition of the Seignorial tenures in Canada.

With respect to the arbitration clause, we have already given our opinions at some length on that subject. We may, however, remark further, that it would be the wildest folly for even one tenant out of a hundred to expect to become a freeholder by resort to arbitration with his landlord. The latter is empowered to demand 20 years purchase, and the payment of all arrears—the purchase money will not be under, in scarcely any case, one hundred pounds per 100 acres. The tenant will say his farm is not worth so much, and proposes an arbitration. The very proposal is a declaration of war against the landlord—it is, at least, an imputation on his sense of justice and honesty. The landlord labours, by all the means and influence in his power, to make good his demand. Can the tenant be so mad as to think he can successfully cope with his antagonist? It is not a case involving the consideration of a doubtful title, or apparently incorrect accounts; but a plain question is to be decided whether the landlord asks too high a price for his land, or the tenant proposes a price too low. If the decision be against the former, he can well afford to pay the expense of the arbitration out of the first instalment of the purchase *and the payment of the arrears of rent*; if against the latter, the defeated tenant must have more money than the great majority of his class possess if he can pay off all arrears since 1858—pay the high instalment on the sum awarded by the arbitrators as the price of his farm—pay the costs of the arbitration, and continue to pay nearly the same amount of rent as he has hitherto paid, should he take the ten years allowed for paying his purchase money. The whole scheme of the arbitration is a monstrous absurdity. We have said that not one out of a hundred tenants would avail himself of it. We might say that not one out of a thousand would, could, or should do it. A contest of this kind assumes all the annoyances and embarrassments of a lawsuit; and it is not difficult to conjecture in whose favor the odds will be when we remember that one of the contestants is a rich landlord and the other a very poor tenant.

But in this connection there is another point to be considered. The Royal Commissioners were appointed as arbitrators to settle the disputes between landlord and tenant. They should have settled them, or adopted such means as would conduce to a settlement, or have abandoned the task. There is nothing in the Royal Commission to justify the appointment of deputy arbitrators. Instead of *settling* the Land Question, the Royal Commissioners have *unsettled* it in the most effectual manner—they have delegated their powers to others without any authority,—and they have given encouragement to litigation and contention between landlord and tenant to an extent that was never dreamt of by either.

The *Islander* threatens the country with a serious calamity in the event of the House not confirming the award; and this is no less than the retirement of Col. Gray into private life, and the future devotion of Messrs. Palmer, Longworth and Haviland to the business of their profession, leaving an ungrateful country to the care of the Liberals! We know these eminent men cannot live forever—the country must sooner or later dispense with their services, and perhaps it is as well we should bear the shock now or a year after, as a dozen years hence. We remember that the country was well governed at a time when they had nothing to do with its affairs—when the most important and useful measures on our Statute book become the law of the land;—and we are sure the country can and will be governed well again when the whole of the Tory Administration, with their subordinates and servants, are consigned to the tomb of all the Capulets. We are surprised the *Islander* has not indulged in lugubrious reflections on the probable calamity of losing, at the same time, the valuable services of Mr. W. H. Pope, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Donald Currie, and some scores of other less distinguished officials scattered all over the Island. As we are assured that it will be a great personal gain to the chiefs of the Cabinet to be relieved from public cares, let us hope their followers will, to some extent, share their good fortune—that Mr. Pope will not merely recuperate his physical powers, prostrated by intense devotion to the duties of the Secretary's office, but, in his *otium cum dignitate*, be enabled to lay the broad foundation of private financial speculations more extensive and more satisfactory in their results than those in which his name was formerly coupled with the Bank—that Mr. Crawford will have the pleasure and profit of aiding in the improvement of our stock of horses,—that Mr. Currie will have ample opportunities of cultivating polite literature, and establishing claims to immortality by writing elegant essays from some log house school on the secluded banks of the East or West River,—and that Mr. Morrison will, as heretofore, make himself generally serviceable to society, by being ready for any useful and honourable occupation that may offer.

The *Islander* states that Messrs. Coles and Whelan are advocating the non-payment of rent. The *Islander* knows that this statement is false. Messrs. Coles and Whelan never advocated anything of the kind. The speeches and writings of both are before the public. We challenge the *Islander* to produce a particle of proof from either in support of its false and malicious assertion.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

While the Governments of all the neighbouring Provinces have made ample arrangements to procure suitable representation at the International Exhibition for the several Provinces whose interests are entrusted to their care, the subject seems to have been wholly forgotten by our rulers, so far as this Island is concerned, until they have been shamed into doing something in connection with the Exhibition at a time when the people cannot make any due preparation for it. On the first of February last, the Duke of Newcastle addressed a Circular despatch to the Lieut. Governor, directing the attention of His Excellency to the importance of taking such measures as would be necessary to put the Trustees of the Exhibition in London in communication with such persons in this Colony "as are likely to command the confidence of those who may become exhibitors." His Grace urged upon the Lieut. Governor the adoption of any means in his power "for furthering the important object in view;" and the Duke further said—"I shall be glad to learn that the Colony under your Government is prepared to become a contributor to this undertaking." The despatch from which we have quoted was laid before the Legislature in March last, but it does not appear by the Journals that any notice was taken of it further than recording it on the Minutes. Now, the Government should have brought this matter on for discussion in the Assembly last Session, and have procured a liberal grant independent of private contributions; but, with the exception of a small vote of £75, which was passed in Committee of Supply at the last moment, without any discussion, there being no time for it—no thing was done by the Government, until the Debating Club had urged the matter, and the neglect of the Executive had been strongly commented upon in this paper. But the only step the Government have so far taken is to appoint the Commissioners for this Island. This appointment, as appears by the following advertisement, was made on the 31 instant; but it is very extraordinary—meagre as it is—that it was not given to the public until a fortnight afterwards, the names of the Commissioners being published for the first time in the *Gazette* of the 18th. But it is not a matter of very great consequence whether the appointment was published on the 3d or 18th September. It was too late at either time for the Government to think about the Commissioners. These persons should have been appointed early in the Spring, or as soon as the Duke of Newcastle's despatch was received in February last; and then they would have had all the Spring, Summer, and Autumn for making all the preparations that would be found necessary, and for exciting a spirit of competition amongst mechanics and manufacturers, who, if properly aroused and generously encouraged, could fairly compete at the Exhibition with their brother chips of the other Provinces. Owing to the delay of the Government, however, we can only send a few homespun cloths, and other agricultural products, that may be procured at our local Exhibition in October; and though these things may, in themselves, be very creditable, perhaps it would be better to withhold them from the London Exhibition, as they would by no means fully represent the art, industry, and resources of Prince Edward Island.

Council Office, 3d September, 1861.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in Council, has been pleased to appoint the following gentlemen, viz:—The Hon. John Hamilton Gray, the Hon. Thomas Heath Haviland, the Hon Alexander Laird, David Kaye, Esq., the Hon Daniel Brenan, George W DeBlois, Esq, the Hon Joseph Hensley, James Robertson, Esq., George Bear, Esq., John Lawson, Esq, the Hon James C Pope, and Henry Longworth, Esq.—Commissioners for the purpose of communicating with Her Majesty's Imperial Commissioners of International Exhibition of Works of Industry and Art to be held in London in 1862,—in order to have the Manufactures and Productions of this Island duly exhibited thereat.

His Excellency was also pleased to appoint Henry Haszard, Esq., Secretary to the aforenamed Commissioners.

CHARLES DESBRISAY, C. E. C.

We publish in our present No. a letter from the Hon J. Longworth, in which that gentleman seeks to impugn our statement as to his having expressed his opinion, before the Royal Commissioners, that 20 years' purchase would be a fair price to give the proprietors for their lands. Mr. Longworth, having examined the Reporter's notes, admits that Mr. Ritchie asked him if the tenants could pay 18 or 19 years' purchase, provided time was given them, and he says he is reported as having answered that, in general, they could—and that Mr. Coles objected to this answer. Now, there is not much difference between 19 and 20 years,—and if the Commissioners understood Mr. Longworth as Mr. Coles and the Reporter did, it is too late for Mr. Longworth to offer a lengthy explanation as to what he intended to have said, when the award has been given, and when his evidence appears to have had some influence in fixing the high price put upon land in that award. We have spoken to several gentlemen who were present when Mr. Longworth made his statement to the Commissioners, and they distinctly remember that Mr. Coles complained of the injustice done to the tenantry by Mr. Longworth having placed so high a price upon land.

☞ We have completed in our present No. the Debates of the House of Assembly. We are very glad to get rid of the wearisome stuff, as we shall now have space for much more interesting reading. The *Protestant* and *Examiner* are the only papers that have given full, complete, and consecutive reports of the Assembly's proceedings.