denomination. He hoped that the resolution would meet the views of the hon. member for Strathalbyn whose enlightened remarks he had been glad to hear, and whose mind would, he hoped, be still further enlightened before the present discussion was concluded, so that he might see that the resolution contained nothing but what was just and liberal. All that was asked was that in schools where the children were all of one denomination, they should have such religious instruction as their parents or guardians required. Was there anything unjust in this? The statutes of the Island to a certain exent authorized religious instruction in public schools. This was the Statute:—

"The introduction of the Bible to be read in all the public schools in this Island of any grade receiving support from the public Treasury, is hereby authorized, and the teachers are hereby required to open the school, each day, with the reading of the sacred Scriptures, by those children whose parents or guardians desire it, without comment, explanation or remark thereupon by the teachers, but no children shall be required to attend during such reading, as aforesaid, unless desired by the parents or guardians."

This authorized the reading of the Bible in the public schools. He did not think that the hon. member for Strathalbyn would consider the demand of the resolution a grievance, for his constituents, if they were sound in their religious views, as he (Mr. Sullivan) believed they were, could, if they thought proper have the Bible read in their schools, and such form of prayer used by the teacher as they wished. If all the children attending any school were of the same religious opinions as the hon. member for Strathalbyn, would their parents consider it a grievance if they were permitted to have such form of prayer as they thought proper? This was all that was sought for by the resolution. In mixed communities the resolution did not seek to have religious instruction in the public schools. The hon member for Strathalbyn would see, when he considered the question, that no injustice was asked. The other part of the resolution set forth that such persons could, in certain cases, be employed as teachers as should produce to the Board of Education satisfactory certificates from some college, or other institutions of learning in Europe or America. This, he presumed, was intended to apply more particularly to the city. Several schools had been established here by the Bishop, in which secular education of a highly satisfactory character was imparted, and where religious instruction was also imparted. He entirely agreed with the hon. member for Strathalbyn, when he said that the State had no right to prescribe the religious instruction which should be imparted to the rising generation. Such was not sought by the resolution. All that the Roman Catholic people asked was that the State should pay for secular education in the schools. In those schools, where religious education was imparted, secular instruction was also given. It was only asked that the Government pay for the secular education which was afforded, and if proper ignore the religious instruction entirely. It was not inconsistent with the duty of the State when it took upon itself the important duty of paying for education to pay for secular education though religious instruction was given in the same schools. He trusted that this explanation would be satisfactory to the hon. member for Strathalbyn. The question had been asked why had the Bishop established his schools in this city—had we not here the same free school system as in the country—did it not give general satisfaction—was it not a great and glorious system—was it not the system established by the Liberal party, and why ignore it? There was very great reason for ignoring it. He would ask the hon. member for Strathalbyn to take up the report of the visitors of schools for Queen's County, and he would find that the schools of the city were a disgrace to the colony. No one knew this fact better than the hon. member for Strathalbyn. It was not to be wondered at that the Bishop being responsible for the education of those under his care wished to have them educated in other institutions than the common schools of this city. He asked the hon. member to bear with him while he brought to his notice the School Visitors Report for the past year.

Speaking of the city schools the Visitor said:—

"The decrease, the past two years, in the number enrolled at the 'City Schools' is 42. Instead of progressing they are retrograding, with a few honorable exceptions. The school-room accommodation is no better than it was years ago. Were details to be given, they would be a mere repetition of my report, presented to your Board in April 1871, without any improvement to note, except in the rooms in Kings Square, occupied by Miss Lawson and Miss Scantelbury, one above and the other below stairs. They are comparatively comfortable. In Miss Lawson's room, however, there is a deficiency of light. The schools in the Temperance Hall and DesBrisay's lane, should be closed immediately unless decent outside conveniencies be provided at once. The Pownal (city) school has been re-opened in a room in Sydney Street. It seems hard that the teacher of this school should be obliged to find the desks, seats, maps and blackboards, at his own expense."

The Visitor next set forth the low ebb to which the city schools had fallen.

"The very low ebb to which the common schools of Charlottetown have fallen ought to be cause of alarm to all who take any interest whatever in the future welfare of this the capital of one of Provinces of the great Dominion of Canada. The alarm must surely be increased to every considerate mind when it is known that an army of about 80 children, of school age within the limits of the city, or about one in three never enter a schoolroom at all. The twelve or thirteen poor schoolrooms now in use with difficulty accomodate the 630 children enrolled; but if the 800 children, who dont go to school at all, could be induced to make their appearance, about sixteen additional schoolrooms will be required. These facts speak for themselves."

Think of this. Eight hundred children in this city never entered school at all, but roamed at large, acquiring vicious habits. Surely, as the Visitor said "these facts speak for themselves." In the quotation just read, reference was made to the report of the same Visitor for 1871, and as some hon. members might not recollect the statements there made, he would bring them to their notice:

"At the Kensington school the attendance is very small indeed, yet numbers of children were to be seen all around at play, instead of coming to the school, which was only a few yards distant. The outhouse here, which serves for all the families around is in a pestilential state, and utterly beyond description.

"At the Spring Park School, the size of the room is not at all sufficient for the number attending. On the day of my visit, I found the children closely packed in double rows. The out house in a bad state."

"Generally speaking, there is not one Government schoolroom in the city fit, in all respects for the purposes of teaching, with the exception, perhaps, of the Normal and Model Schoolrooms, and even these are now found to be too contracted for the number in attendance. The steadily increasing attendance at the two last named schools is gratifying, and is certainly to be attributed to the superior accommodation as well as to the superior teaching to be found there. Whereas, on the contrary, the attendance at many of the other city schools is decreasing, and the reasons are quite evident viz: want of respectable and commodious school buildings, with decent surroundings, the generally low standard of teaching power exhibited, and the culpable indifference of those who do send their children to school, as to whether they attend regularly or not."

He would call the attention of the hon. member for the city (Dr. Jenkins) to the statements contained in these extracts. He was Health Officer for the city, and he appealed to him to know if the state of things here described, was not seriously dangerous to the health of the community at large. There was no hon. member in the House, there was none within the sound of his voice who would deny the correctness of the statements made by the School Visitor. None who resided in the city, and was acquainted with the facts of the case, but would admit that the City Free Schools were a disgrace to the Colony. Was it any wonder that His Lordship the Bishop, being responsible in some respect for the education of those under his charge, should have established schools where the children might be taught? He had done so, and been supported in it, and the schools which had been established were a credit and an ornament to the city. In Pownal Street school, and in the Convent on Hillsborough Square females were educated; at St. Patrick school males were taught, and the attendance at these institutions aggregated about 500. Those children had been, by the Bishop and the Roman Catholic population, taken off the streets and placed in these schools, which were furnished and provided with everything requisite for first class educational institutions, at no expense to the State. The demand now made was that these schools should receive the same allowance from the State that other schools received. No grant was asked on account of the religious instruction only for the secular education. There was nothing unfair in this. If the Bishop, with the utmost charity and liberality, had taken 500 children off the streets, and placed them in large and commodious schools, why should he not receive for their secular education the same rate that was paid for schools which were pronounced a disgrace to the city by the Visitor of schools? Would any hon. member take upon himself to ignore these rights, which no man would deny, were just and fair? It was in the recollection of hon. members, that before the school over the way, (St. Patrick School) had been established there was a school the majority of the children attending which were Roman Catholics, and which was taught by Mr. Roche, and in connection with which there was a female school. These schools, which had been abolished about five years ago, had cost the country about £200 per annum. For five years this expense had been saved, making a saving to the State of £1000. Would there be any injustice in placing that sum at the disposal of the Bishop, to remunerate him in part for the expense to which he had been put. He (Mr. Sullivan) did not know that anything which could be said would induce hon. members to change their minds, which were probably pretty well made up on both sides of the House. Simple justice only was asked. It might now be denied, but the time would come when justice would be done. The question might as well be grappled first as last, for it was impossible that the present state of educational matters could continue long. The land question had been settled so far as this House was concerned. A bill had been passed which would, he hoped, settle it forever. He did not think it too much to ask that hon. members should sink differences for a time, and take up this question and set it at rest. It had been said by the hon. member for Strathalbyn—who was the only Protestant who had yet spoken, and to whose speech he was therefore compelled to make the most frequent reference—that there was a great difference of opinion among Protestants regarding the desirability of imparting religious education in schools. He would bring to the notice of that hon. member some utterances of very distinguished Protestants on this subject. The first which he would quote was a resolution moved by the Earl of Shaftesbury, one of the foremost Protestants of England, at a meeting held in London on the 6th November last. The resolution was—

'That special exertions are required at the present time to maintain Scriptural instruction in Board schools, and to counteract the attempt to reduce our primary schools to be places of mere secular training, by which Christianity would be dishonored, and our national well being impaired."

In supporting the Resolution Earl Shaftesbury said that he—

"Sympathized with the Roman Catholics on this matter; they must insist upon a distinctive teaching on religious matters. They desired something definite and distinctive; distinctive on the great truths of the Gospel on which the scripture teaching rested. They did not want the morality of Greece, Rome, Budhism, or the Koran. They wanted the great and saving doctrines of the Gospel, under which so large a proportion of the world had lived and died. Otherwise they would be brought in the course of time to the morality of Strauss, Spinosa and John Stuart Mill. They must be earnest in their determination to resist this. They had come on a time unlike anything that had preceded it. Wild opinions were rampant, all the domestic ties were loosened, filial obedience was very slight, and parental authority nothing at all. In politics, in morals, in religion, all were convulsed. And was this a time to give up the Bible, our only guide, to cast ballast overboard, and leave the rudder to itself?"

The Bishop of London, who presided at the meeting in which the resolutions quoted passed unanimously, said:—

"This meeting was meant to be an assertion that denominational schools—the schools where the consciences of all should be treated on fair and equitable terms—should be respected and maintained. (Cheers). He used the word 'denominational' and not 'Church' schools because the meeting was not held in support of creed or party, but of principle—(loud cheers)—and was asserting the right of all schools enjoying distinct religious education to be treated on an equality with others in which no distinct religious education was given. As a Churchman he should be glad to have all the children taught Church principles; but, unfortunately, partly by the faults of our forefathers, we were divided; and what the Church contended for was that the truths in the Bible should be taught to the children of those who did not object to the teaching. (Cheers). The position he took was that to endeavor to destroy or supersede such denominational schools by non-religious State schools, or to place them, unintentionally it might be, at a disadvantage, was a violation of the rights of conscience."

He (Mr. Sullivan) did not wish to quote any authority belonging to the Church of which he was a humble and unworthy member, but would cite another authority,—the Rev. G. M. Grant of Halifax, who was well known to the people of this Island; and there was no one who knew him but would give him credit for the highest intelligence as a clergyman. Mr. Grant said:—

"It is not a burning question now in Nova Scotia, but it may become so at any moment, because the present state of matters does not give satisfaction to either side in the long standing controversy. I content myself with saying that the solution come to in Ontario, after years of struggle appears to me the fairest, and therefore the wisest,—best for education and religion, for Protestant and Romanist, for that peace and mutual good will which are indispensable to progress and patriotism."

He did not know whether the opinion of the Earl of Shaftesbury or that of the Bishop of London would have much weight with the hon member for Strathalbyn, but he trusted that the utterances of Mr. Grant one of the ablest clergymen of the Church in which the hon. member stood high would have some effect upon him. The Roman Catholics asked no more than Mr Grant conceded to be fair—the system in force in Ontario. He did not see why Protestants here should be unwilling to grant what had been by their co-religionists granted to the Roman Catholic minority in Ontario, which minority was much smaller, comparatively speaking, than the Catholic minority here; or why they should be loth to concede what had been by the Catholic majority conceded to the Protestant minority in Quebec. They (the Roman Catholics) were willing to take either. They were in a minority here to-day, but was that any reason why they should be denied simple justice? was that any reason why they should be obliged to pay towards the support of two sets of schools? They were compelled to pay the school assessment collected by law. He himself paid last year upwards of $28, though he had no one to send to school, and if he had he could not have availed himself of the public schools. The Roman Catholics asked that they be relieved from paying this tax—that when they had established schools of their own they should not be obliged to pay for schools of whose advantages they could not avail themselves. He did not think that this could be considered as unfair, or as doing any violence to the conscience of any hon. member. The Roman Catholics did not ask for any of the taxes paid by others, they only asked that the amount paid by themselves be handed back to them for the education of their children. It might be said that this was a matter with which they had nothing to do—that the state had taken upon itself the education of the children, and if they thought proper not to avail themselves of the schools established they had no right to make this claim. But others besides the Roman Catholics had established schools. The Wesleyans had done so also, and if the free schools were sufficient to impart proper secular education why had they gone to the expense they had? And the hon. member (Mr. Stewart) had said that the Presbyterians were also making a move in the same direction. Why was this done if the public schools were satisfactory? This was the strongest proof that the system, so far as the City was concerned did not work well, and it was necessary for the religious bodies to establish schools after their own heart. We had been sometimes referred to the system of education which was in force in the United States; after which, he believed our system had been modelled by Mr Coles; but many complaints were made by eminent men of the manner in which the system had worked there. He would quote for the benefit of the hon. member for Strathalbyn the opinion of an eminent Protestant gentleman, Principal Elliot, of Harvard College. He did not agree with all that gentleman's opinions, but with those on the subject under consideration he did. Principal Elliot said:

"Religion is the supreme human interest, government is the supreme human organization, therefore government ought to take care of religion, and a christian government should maintain distictively christian religious institutions. This is not theory alone, it is the practice of all christendom, except in America and Switzerland."

The learned Principal was thus firmly of opinion that it was of the utmost importance to impart religious education in schools. The system in force in the United States was the same as ours, but it had been found to work so badly in the city of New York that they had been compelled, so he learned by reports, to make an exception in order to save the youth of the city, and religious instruction was there permitted in the schools. Why should the Protestant majority here refuse to grant what was granted in Prussia, in Switzerland, in Great Britain, in Ontario? In Prussia the Jews even were permitted to teach their peculiar doctrines and recieved state aid as others did. He agreed with the hon. member for Tignish that the change asked for was intended to benefit the poor. Those who had means could send their children where they pleased, and beside, the poor, not having recieved the advantages of education themselves, did not take so much much interest in education, were somewhat careless in that respect. He did not think, when the state was paying a large sum for education, that the poor people should be prevented from receiving a certain portion even if it went to schools in which religious education was imparted. As he would have another opportunity of speaking on this matter, he would say no more now, but would ask the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Welsh) who had day after day and night after night stood up and asked for justice, whether he would refuse this demand.

Mr. Welsh.—Who refused the justice for which he had asked?

Hon Mr. Sullivan had not refused it, and would support any just claim which the people of Belfast put forward. He was a liberal of the liberals, and he trusted he would bring all his liberality to bear upon this question. Mr Welsh was also an economist of the first water and if he wished to save the expenditures upon Courts and Jails let him in God's name bring his good sense to bear upon the matter and give to the Bishops schools in the city a sum for the education of children who would otherwise be running round the streets and every day entering upon a career of crime. The hon. member might say that he was the representative of Belfast and bound to speak their views, but he thought there was sufficient liberality in the people of Belfast to grant justice if the matter was fairly brought before them. He agreed with the hon. member for East Point, that there was not one code for the city and another for the country, but he did not think it practicable to have religious education where the schools were mixed. If there was in any school one Protestont only, or one Catholic only, he would not have religious education introduced. Let hon. members give this matter their serious consideration. If the question was once setteled other questions would arrise, which would divide political parties. This question should not be made a stalking horse by one party or the other. Insinuations regarding the conduct of office-holders on this matter had been thrown out. He happened to be one of these but he had never been influenced in his conduct by that fact. He cared not what government was in power. What little property he had he had made himself, and he was independent of any gov't. office. He had never hesitated to express his opinions or to vote upon a principal of right. He had pleasure in voting for the resolution, whatever was the result, whether the government was defeated or not, because he believed it was a right and just principle. He hoped the hon. member for Belfast would vote for the resolution, for he had heard that outside the House that gentlemen had not been unlavish in declaring that he was in favor of settling the question so far at least as regarded the city.

The Examiner.

Ch'town, May 4, 1874.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Cartwright it not happy in his allusions to Prince Edward Island. He would fain make us responsible for a large portion of the increased duty which he has placed upon the commerce of the Dominion; and so we receive "honorable mention" in his Budget speech.

It would, however, appear from his allusions that we have to thank the late Government for any crumbs that may fall to our share from the rich man's table. He says in his Budget speech—

"For light-houses and coast service they were compelled to ask for a small additional appropriation—chiefly owing, he was informed, to the excessive liberality with which their hon. predecessors were willing to provide for the lighting of the coast of Prince Edward Island."

So it appears that we have to thank our late representatives for the lighthouses which the Government are to build for us this summer. If it had not been for the liberality with which Sir John's Government were willing to provide for our wants, we expect that it would be a long time before we would have a lighthouse on the West Cape, or any other Cape.

When Messrs. Pope, Howlan and McDonald informed us, on their return from Ottawa, that they had got an order in Council passed for the different lights necessary to render the navigation of our coasts safe, by night as well as by day we well remember how the Grit organs sneered at the statement. They told us that it was "all buncome;" and devoted elaborate leaders to prove that nothing of the kind had been done; or, if done, that it was of no more value than so much waste paper. But now we have the statement of their own Cabinet Ministers to assure us that he has to ask for an unusual amount for lighthouse services, *because his predecessors had provided for lighting the coasts of Prince Edward Island.*

We fancy we see traces of the labors of our late members in another paragraph of the Budget speech. Referring to the steam service, Mr. Cartwright says:—

"In the ocean and river service he had included some items, the House would perceive, of a miscellaneous kind; but this was necessarily out of their control for some considerable time, and it was possible something might be said under this head; but he could hardly venture to estimate to what extent it might hereafter be found possible to reduce that expenditure."

We fear from this that we will find the subsidy for steam service to Crapaud or Belfast, or Georgetown, or Mount Stewart Bridge, suddenly stopped some day; although the Government of Sir John provided for the payment of the subsidy to the boats running to those places.

OUR MEN AT OTTAWA.

It is greatly to be deplored that the electors of this Island, under the misguided patronage of his Lordship Bishop McIntyre, should have made such a grand mistake in the selection of their representatives to the Dominion Parliament. We have good men in the Senate, but they are powerless to originate such measures as are required by the exigencies of this Province to save it from the degrading position which the Bishop's nominees are likely to entail upon it.

The appointment of a person so thoroughly unfitted by position, manners, experience and business qualifications as Mr. Laird, to fill such a responsible position as that of Cabinet Minister, is, indeed, one of the greatest misfortunes that could have befallen this Island.

Once seated in power, with a large majority at his back, Mr. Mackenzie would doubtless retain a lively remembrance of the means by which he had accomplished his object, and naturally conclude that a person who had contrived to be introduced to the Legislative Chamber of the Dominion by, and leaning on, the arm of, a distinguished chief, and on the next day betraying him for a pecuniary consideration, was not a person to be trusted; and fearing lest he, too, might some day be made the subject of a similar negotiation, no doubt sagaciously concluded to ignore the influence of this incubus on his Government; and by treating the interests of this Island with neglect and contempt, induce Mr. Laird to resign. If such was his expectation, Mr. Mackenzie will be disappointed. The man who, as a just punishment for his untruthful statements, and slander of private character, has had publicly inflicted on him in this community the greatest indignity of which 'Shylock' complained, will not be likely to relinquish his grasp upon $8000 per annum, on account of any personal indignity that could be offered to him.

Previous to Confederation, the salary of the Lieut. Governor of this Province was the same as that of the Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and he had the privilege of importing his wines, etc., duty free. One of the first acts of our Minister of the Interior, has been to fix the salary of our Lieutenant Governor $2000 per annum below that of the Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and to have the exception from duties on wine, &c., withdrawn.

Our Chief Justice's salary has been fixed at $3000 below that of the Chiefs of Quebec and Ontario, and $2000 less than that of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and Manitoba. Our Pusine Judges receive $1500 less.

This is a downright insult to our Bench and Bar, perpetrated by a man who does not blush to receive $4000 a year more than our Chief Justice, besides Legislative allowance, pickings and postage stamps found him. No man of honor or principle would retain a seat in a Government that would be guilty of such treatment towards a Province that he represented.

Surely a just retribution is overtaking the public men of this Colony; who, through their apathy and indifference, have allowed its destinies to be controlled by such an incapable and selfish person as the present Minister of the Interior. Without manifesting much sympathy with those who have not had discernment enough to note the means by which this hypocritical adventurer managed to foist himself upon this community, as a public man, it may not be amiss to recall public attention to the subject.

Having denounced Confederation as ruinous to the Colony, and alarmed the inhabitants of a district through which the railway did not pass, by stating what he knew to be wilful falsehood,—that the construction of the proposed trunk railway through the Island would entail an additional amount of taxation of $27 a head on every man, woman, and child in the Colony and promising, if returned, to *stop the work*, will it be credited that, no sooner was he returned, than he advocated the extension of branches at $1,000 per mile over the former contracts,—thus nearly doubling the charge upon the country; and after denouncing the contractors and the Government as having conspired to defraud the public, actually selected the same contractors to construct the work.

The eleven months Government, of which he was a member, next sent to the United States for competent engineers to inspect the work; and, fearing that the opinion of these gentlemen would not bear out the charges preferred by that Government against the constructors of the railway, they resorted to the meaness and dishonesty of endeavoring to procure such a report from the engineers as would justify the base and malignant charges they had made. Having, however, to do with gentlemen of integrity, who would not pander to their dishonesty, they met with such a rebuff as no men in their position ever before brought upon themselves.

Confederation and its ruinous consequences had yet to be dealt with; and a self-appointed deputation, consisting of the Leader of the Government and the present Minister of the Interior, at the public expense, sneaked off on a Saturday night to Canada,—as was supposed by many, to try to prevent Confederation. But it turned out, their object, instead of opposing it, was to obtain it at any price. They did their best to sell our interests for a sum of $35,000 per annum less than was subsequently obtained by the present Government.

At the same time they granted a pedlar's license to an agent, whom they dubbed "Colonial Secretary," to hawk the debentures of the Government through the Provinces, selling some at discount, and pledging $28,000 worth with a bank in New Brunswick for an advance of $25,000 for three months, at 7½ per cent. Having made no provision for meeting this demand at maturity, they agreed to the rate of 12 per cent. for three months' further accommodation, having at the same time over $50,000 in the banks in Charlottetown, not bearing interest. The same securities were subsequently sold by the present Government to the same bankers at par, payable in sterling bills of exchange, and are now worth from three to four per cent. premium in this market.

Fortunately, the people of this Island awoke to the critical position of their affairs, and the most incapable and unprincipled Government that ever disgraced this or any other country was, after eleven months' trial, ignominiously dismissed. This brief and inglorious period includes all the parliamentary experience of the official life of the Minister of the Interior.

Driven from power in the Local Government, he next tried what intrigue through the Bishop of Charlottetown would do. The Bishop, although an amiable man, who has done much to promote education within his own circle, unfortunately, it is alleged, has suffered himself to be influenced by several misguided laymen and their strong-minded wives, and the result was that Laird, Sinclair, Davies and Yeo, (four of the most uncompromising opponents of the Roman Catholic claims in former times) and Perry and the Bishop's nephew, were recognized by the general voice of the country as His Lordship's nominees,—MacKenzie having duped the Bishop into a belief that he would override the authority of the Local Parliament by Dominion legislation in favor of the Catholic claims on the School Question. Howlan and Austin McDonald, both Roman Catholics,—two of the most capable members who offered,—were denounced from the altar, and the Bishop's threats to unmake every Government that refused to grant his terms were thundered forth in a Pastoral, backed up by the authority of his Church.

Almost every influential member of the Roman Catholic religion in this Island disapproves of the advice under which Bishop has acted. Antagonism on the part of all the Protestant Ministers on the Island has been aroused; the claims of the Bishop have been defeated in the Local Legislature by a division of 17 to 9; and Mackenzie's promises are as near their fulfilment as they ever will be. His Lordship's nominees in the Dominion Parliament are powerless. Laird's influence is gone; and, if were not, he would not risk his personal interests for all the Bishops in Christendom. Davies and Sinclair are too insignificent to make themselves prominent; and the other three prefer the society of Riel—and, no doubt are looked upon with that contempt which such a preference would naturally inspire.

The majority of the Ontarians is sufficiently large to enable them to dispense with Mr. Laird's special qualification, viz: that of slandering and maligning the public or private reputation of those who differ from him on public questions. This is manifest in his inability to resist the imposition of duties on materials used in the construction of ships,—a branch of our trade that gives a cash market to our farmers and highly remunerative wages to our mechanics and artizans, whilst it supplies the means of shipping our products to the British market. But such considerations are beyond the comprehension of Mr. Laird. To those who are aware of Mr. Laird's want of practical business knowledge, his failure as a Minister will not be a surprise. His rude and uncultivated manner must, of itself, have been felt as an infliction by all those members of the Government who are endowed with the feelings, and who practice the habits, of gentlemen.

They, evidently, have found that they can do without this bravo, and that with his distinguished following he is not likely again either to make or break a Ministry, to suit his own corrupt ends, at the expense of this Island.

What has he done for our lighthouses? That part of our railway now nearly ready to be opened, is without a telegraph or any trained staff to work the road, while thousands of tons of lumber are deposited along the line waiting to be conveyed for shipment; no arrangements are made for dredging our harbors,—and the other numerous local improvements for which the foresight of Sir John Macdonald's Government would have provided, but which never entered the mind of the obtuse Minister of the Interior. A day of retribution awaits this dishonest politician when he will be called upon to account for his sins of omission, as well as for those he has wilfully committed.

A DISGRACEFUL FAILURE.

Mr. Laird's first attempt at Dominion Legislation has not been a very brilliant affair. His friends here represented him as possessing a heaven-born genius which only required a wider field to gain distinction. Well, the wider field has been gained, but we are afraid we cannot say much about the "distinction." Last week the Minister of the Interior introduced into the House of Commons a Bill relating to the Half-breeds of Manitoba. We regret that we cannot lay before our readers his oratorical effort upon this occasion, for he was either inaudible, or the reporters did not consider his speech worth reporting, for we have been unable to find more than a few lines of incoherent remarks in any of the newspapers. But no sooner had Mr. Laird resumed his seat, than Sir John Macdonald pointed out that he was quite wrong and out of order; for that the Bill should be founded upon resolutions originating in a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Laird was speechless, and Mr. Mackenzie came to his rescue. He said there was, no doubt, a good deal in Sir John's remarks, but he asked him not to press his objection until he had time to look at the precedents. Sir John good-naturedly consented; and the result was, that at the end of that day's parliamentary report in each newspaper published in Canada, there is the following short but sadly significent statement:

"Mr. Laird's half-breed lands bill was withdrawn."

Of course the *Patriot*, knowing that concealment is impossible, will endeavor to draw comfort and consolation from this magnificent specimen of legislative knowledge and ability. And we shall anxiously await until it is pointed out to us wherein Mr. Laird's first attempt at legislation brings credit to himself or reflects it upon its constituents.

Management of the Grand Trunk.—Though no announcement has been made of the fact in the daily press, it is stated that Mr. Brydges' connection with the Grand Trunk Railway ceased on the acceptance of his resignation, which was sent by Atlantic cable. The duties of Managing Director are, for the moment, performed by Mr. Hickson, to whom the orders to take charge of the road came with such startling suddenness that he is said to have asked them to be repeated, to make sure there was no mistake. The change has been announced by circular to the different station masters.—*The Nation.*

THE TARIFF.

The tariff which Mr. Cartwright attempted to foist upon the Dominion, was, in some respects, so very unfair, that the Government organs did not attempt to justify it. The *Globe* admitted that the people of the Lower Provinces had great reason to complain of the tax imposed upon shipbuilding materials. No taxation could be imposed which would be so exceptionally unfair to the Maritime Provinces as this tax upon shipbuilding materials and outfits, because the sea-going ships are nearly all built in these Provinces. These ships are built principally for sale in the mother country. The tariff imposed a tax equivalent to one dollar per ton on the cost of the ship, and although those vessels will be sold in the very market from which the iron, and all other duty paying materials have been imported, no drawback was to be allowed on these materials, and the duty paid would thus become a dead loss to the exporter or builder. It is evident that the shipbuilding interests would have to suffer severely had the obnoxious duty been continued. There is no branch of commerce or manufactures in the Provinces which benefits such a large class of people as this business does.

Mr. Cartwright attempted to justify his three millions of additional taxation, by referring to the large expenditure of his predecessors. This argument is a very poor one at best; for, if they proposed to expend money on improper works, or for unnecessary purposes, why do not the present Government stop such works. Nor will the statement that the Revenue would be short of the expenditure about $850,000; but this excess of expenditure he took out of the $1,639,000 of surplus revenue of the previous year. Nor will it help Mr. Cartwright's statement to bring in Prince Edward Island as the scapegoat; for it was not overlooked by Mr. Tilley. The receipts from Customs and Excise collected in the Island have gone into the general revenue of the Dominion, so that the deficit on this account for the year must be a very small one. The Pacific Railway, which the present Government state was to entail such a heavy burden upon the Dominion, has been abandoned, and, according to their statement, a new route is to be substituted which only cost one-third the money. It is, therefore, evident that no real necessity existed for this enormous increase of taxation.

Under the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald, the revenue always exceeded the expenditure, notwithstanding the reductions which he made in the tariff. In 1868 the surplus revenue was $201,835.53; 1869, $241,090.52; 1870, $1,168,716.07; 1871, $3,712,479.09; 1872, $3,125,344.88; 1873, $1,639,000,—making an aggregate for six years of Confederation under his leadership of $10,186,466.67. Upwards of ten millions of surplus revenue in six years!! And this with duties reduced on all articles of general consumption—latterly without any duty on tea—without any duty on shipbuilding materials and outfits,—speaks volumes for the financial ability of the late Government.

A PROTEST.

A Resolution, involving a protest against the imposition of a tax upon materials used in the construction of ships, was submitted to the Legislature by the Leader of the Government, on Tuesday morning last. Owing to a heavy press of distracting business, Mr. Owen forgot to give the usual notice of his motion. Will it be believed that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. L. H. Davies, took advantage of this circumstance, and objected to its introduction? When the Colonial Secretary made a motion to the effect that the rule respecting notices of motion be suspended in order to allow an expression of the opinion of the Legislature upon such an important subject as the proposed tax on ship materials—a motion which requires a unanimous vote—Mr. Davies was *the* man to oppose it. For the present, we make no comment—comment is needless. We publish the draft resolution, as submitted:—

Whereas the duty of five per cent imposed by the Government on ship materials imported into the Dominion is most unjust to the Maritime Provinces, and more particularly to Prince Edward Island; because, owing to the complete isolation of this Island during five months of the year, it cannot become a manufacturing country and the people are almost entirely dependent on shipbuilding.

That the greater quantity of articles used in the construction and outfit of ships, costing a very large amount of money, is sent back to England, inasmuch as most of the vessels built are for sale in the English market, and no refund of duties is made as is the case in all other goods exported.

"That the character of our ships has been very much raised during the last four years owing to the fact that large quantities of yellow and muntz metal (the use of which entitles vessels to higher classification has been used in the construction, and complete outfits have been imported; this, to a great extent, will have to be abandoned under the new tariff, and inferior classification accepted.

"That the very large amount to be raised from this tax will have to be paid by the Maritime Provinces, whilst Ontario and the greater portion of the Dominion will contribute comparatively nothing; but, on the other hand the imposition of this tax on the principal industry of the Maritime Provinces will afford increased protection to manufactures of Canada whilst none of the manufactures of that portion of the Dominion are crippled by the imposition of any special or exceptional tax.

Resolved therefore, that this House, whilst it does not question the right of the Dominion Parliament to impose such taxes as it may see fit, deems it its duty on behalf of the people of this Province, to express its entire dissatisfaction of the imposition of this tax which will bear with exceptional harshness upon the Island—in the hope that the Dominion Government will make such alterations and modifications in the tariff as will do justice to the Maritime Provinces."

MODIFICATION OF THE TARIFF.

We are gratified to learn that, notwithstanding the disposition of Mr. L. H. Davies and his party, to sustain Mr. Cartwright's tariff—a tariff which, had it been enforced, would have been a dead weight upon the shipping interests of this Province,—the politicians of Ontario have had the justice and the generosity to remodel it to a certain extent, in favor of the Maritime Provinces. In a despatch, signed 'David Laird,' and addressed to the Hon. L. C. Owen, it is stated that the "general ad valorem duty is made seventeen and a half per cent, black tea three cents, and green tea four cents per pound; sugar, iron, copper, hemp grass or iron cable, chains, wire-rigging, and sheathing, restored to the old tariff. Sparkling wine are raised one dollar per dozen, others are reduced ten cents per gallon."

Saturday—May second, was the first really fine bright day of the spring season.

EXCURSION TRIP

TO SUMMERSIDE AND BACK BY RAIL—THE EXCURSIONISTS—THE CARS—THE SPEED—DINNER AT THE CLIFTON HOTEL—TOASTS AND SPEECHES—THE RETURN TO CHARLOTTETOWN.

Any man who would, in the month of April, in the year of Grace 1871, have dared to predict that our politicians and our press, our lawyers and our divines, could unite—like a happy family—in the enjoyment of an excursion trip to "Summerside by rail" in the month of April, in the year of Grace 1874, would have been, by many, deemed a visionary," and by some, a "fool.' But he would nevertheless have been a true prophet.

On Wednesday last, the 29th inst., at about half-past nine o'clock in the morning, an "excursion train" left the railway station at Charlottetown. The excursionists were invited by Messrs Schreiber and Burpee, through the medium of their efficient and gentlemanly representative—Charles C. Gregory, Esq. And, truly, they formed a curious assemblage—a strange and unexpected junction of antagonistic elements. There were the Hon. J. C. Pope and the Hon. Edward Palmer, President Bell and Speaker Howatt, the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition, the Attorney General and Hon. Benjamin Davies, the Solicitor General and Mr. Rowe, the Rev. James McDonald and the Rev. Mr. Barnard, Currie and Fletcher, Bowers and Brennan—and so through a long line of antagonisms—mental and physical, moral, political and religious. Yet all there united in the determination to enjoy themselves and the disposition to felicitate the country on the successful issue of the "railway policy."

The train proceeded swiftly and smoothly at the rate of about nineteen miles an hour. A gentleman—who knows—was heard to remark that "there is not an easier riding railway in the Dominion." This we believe, is a fact. Not the slightest inconvenience was felt as the train ran round the 'graceful curves.' On the contrary the enjoyment was rather heightened by the changed motion of the cars, by the rapidly shifting scenery, and the unexpected prospects. In summer when the "garden in the gulf" looks its best, a pleasanter road to travel upon need not be desired. Bleak and desolate as the bare fields and leafless trees appeared on Wednesday last, we could not help admiring the broad stretches of undulating upland, the panoramic views, of copse, and dell, and running stream which came in sight as the train dashed on.

The first-class cars are elegant and comfortable. Each is about forty feet long and six feet wide. Each rests on steel springs attached to eight car wheels. Each is fitted up with ventilators and all the "modern conveniences." Each will accomodate thirty-six passengers. In each the seats are placed on a frame-work of iron with reversable backs—the whole neatly covered and cushioned, and arranged so that three persons may sit abreast.

The train, although detained at several stations, arrived at Summerside about 12-50,—making the trip in three hours—a little more or less—and running at the rate of about nineteen miles an hour. At two o'clock, the party sat down to a sumptuous dinner, provided at the expense of the contractors, and prepared and set forth in Mr. Mawley's best style. Over the "walnuts and the wine," the following toasts were proposed and duly honored:—

1. The Queen,
2. The Governor General,
3. The Administrator,
4. The President of the United States,
5. The Gov't. and Parliament of Canada,
6. The Legislative Council,
7. The House of Assembly,
8. The Railway Contractors,
9. The Press of Prince Edward Island,
10. The Bench and Bar,
11. Pope and Howlan,
12. The Contr'tor's Eng'r—C. C. Gregory
13. The Gov't. Engineeer—John Boyd,
14. The Farmers of P. E. Island,
15. The Opposition and its Leader—Mr. L. H. Davies,
16. The Government and its Leader—Hon. L. C. Owen.

The speeches were short. Mr. Dunn, United States' Consul, briefly responded to the toast with which the President was honored. He said he liked the Island well. It seemed like home; for the people were of the same race, with like laws, manners and religion. Hon. Attorney General said on behalf of Lord Dufferin, that he had acted his part prudently and impartially, and he would likely prove himself to be "one of the best Governors who ever trod the soil of Canada." On behalf of the Administrator, Mr. Brecken said, with truth, that the "better he is known the more he is esteemed." Speaking of the Government and Parliament of Canada—although opposed to the present administration—he was prepared to admit his belief that they were actuated by a desire to promote the public good. The Leader of the Opposition, in a short speech, proposed the "Legislative Council," to which toast the President of that body as briefly responded, and then proposed the "House of Assembly.' The Speaker in response, said that his observations during the last session led him to believe that the same House contained nearly, if not quite as much ability now as it had previous to Confederation. He thought the Legislature had done as much real work this session as ever it did before. Mr. Bell proposed the health of "the Contractors." This toast met with an enthusiastic reception. It was briefly responded to by Mr. Gregory. Judge Palmer proposed "The Press," and in doing so took occasion to remark the perceptible improvement which had of late years taken place in the style of our newspapers. He remarked also that he believed railways to be a necessity and was pleased to observe the success which had attended the undertaking in this Island. Messrs. Fletcher and Bowers responded. Hon. Mr. Strong proposed the "Bench and Bar," which toast called up Judge Palmer and the Attorney General. Hon. E. McEachern proposed the health of the men, without whom, he said, Prince Edward Island would not have had a railroad to-day—Hon. J. C. Pope and Hon. G. W. Howlan. Mr. Pope responded. He cogratulated Judge Palmer on his conversion to the railway policy, and commented upon the success of the narrow gauge railways, as illustrated by the working of our own. He complimented the contractors; and said if there was one thing more than another on which they were to be congratulated, it was in having such an efficient and energetic representative here. To the exertions of Mr. Gregory he attributed the great success of the undertaking. He concluded by proposing Mr. Gregory's health. Mr. Gregory responded in a fitting manner. He showed the great difficulty of running a straight railroad through this Island. He pointed out that in hard and rocky soils it was easier to make a straight road for forty or fifty miles, than it was through soft friable soil, where there were water sheds every three or four miles. He said that the contractors and their agents had been treated with uniform courtesy by both Governments. The Leader of the Opposition proposed the health of the Government Engineer, Mr. Boyd. Mr. Boyd responded in a neat speech. Hon. Mr. Dingwell, in response to the toast to the "farmers of Prince Edward Island," said he was sure farmers generally would be benefitted by the railway—and he was equally sure that they would not fail to appreciate its benefits. The Attorney General proposed the Opposition and its Leader. Mr. L. H. Davies responded, and proposed the Government and its Leader. Mr. Owen briefly returned thanks on behalf of his party. Both Leaders were mutually congratulatory and conciliatory in their remarks.

About half-past five o'clock the excursionists again took the train, and arrived at Charlottetown at a few minutes past eight. We are convinced that every member of the party were—thanks to the hospitality and kindness of the Contractors and Mr. Gregory—thoroughly well pleased with the excursion.

THE LAND QUESTION.

The "Land Purchase Act, 1874," has passed both branches of our Local Legislature. The original Bill published in the Examiner a few weeks ago—has not undergone any material change. The amendments to which it has been subjected affect only the details of the measure. The absurd idea of vesting the appointment of the third Commissioner in the Governor General was abandoned at the last moment. Mr. Haythorne's nostrum was not administered. The amendments are in brief:—That the term "proprietor" shall be construed to mean any person entitled to receive rents of lands exceeding five hundred acres; that a notification of the arbitration served upon the proprietor or his agent, either by posting through the Post Office or by publication in the *Royal Gazette* shall be sufficient; that in the event of the death or illness of an arbitrator, the party whom he represents may appoint another, and should either the proprietor or government refuse, then the Supreme Court shall appoint the substitute; that the arbitrators shall have power to examine witnesses on oath, and to enforce the production of all documents relating to the estate under arbitration, by a penalty of from $5 to $50 or imprisonment for three months; that the arbitrators shall have power to go upon the land to examine and enquire into its value, that the fact of proprietors being compelled to sell shall not be an excuse for increasing the price of the land; that the arbitrators shall take into consideration the price of other estates sold to the Government—also the term for which the land is leased—also, the arrears of rent and the years over which they extend,—also, the number of acres of unleased land and their quality—also, the gross rental, and the actual nett receipts for the last six years—also, the number of acres held by squatters, for which the Government is not liable. The Act also provides that the award of the arbirrators shall be final and admit of no appeal. In case of disagreement the Supreme Court may remit the award to the arbitrators for reconsideration. The Supreme Court is to make rules and regulations for the better carrying out of the Act—such rules and regulations to be published in the *Royal Gazette*. No tenant shall be liable at law for the non-payment of rent.

In order to "disarm suspicion,"—to be perfectly open and fair with the people—the Government have pledged themselves that no person whose name is not included in the following list shall be an arbitrator on behalf of the tenantry;—

Alexander Laird,	L. C. Owen,
A. A. Macdonald,	Dr. Jenkins,
R. P. Haythorne,	Peter Sinclair,
Wm. McGill,	Wm. McNeill,
John Balderstone.	

The Bill to amend the "Land Purchase Act, 1853," was, we regret to report, thrown out by the Legislative Council. The proprietors will, we fear, make a "strong point" out of this circumstance.

SERVED HIM RIGHT.

Mr. Perry has been served with a writ for $2000 a day for every day he violates the law abolishing dual representation, by sitting in the House of Commons of Canada while still a member of the Local Assembly in this Province. Some people may say that, in view of the constant warnings he received from the Examiner, he has been served right. We are charitably disposed; and, therefore, we will not send a fyle of the Examiner to Ottawa to prove that if Mr. Perry broke the law, he did so after we repeatedly warned him to beware. We trust that the "Bill of Indemnity" may save him yet.

The Seal Fishery.—The North Sydney *Herald* says: "The steamer *Merlin*, while on her second sealing voyage, put into this port last Monday short of coal. She had on board 700 seals caught off St. Paul's Island. Captain Walsh, who has been in the seal fishing busines for a number of years, says that he never saw the seals so thick, but could not get near them on account of the ice being unsafe to walk on."

SHIPPING.

PORT OF CHARLOTTETOWN

ENTERED.

Ap'l 25—Sarah, White, from Pictou, 90 tons coal. 27—Addie, Gelvan, Shediac, lumber; Aggie Davieson, Hulihan, Pictou, coal; Ocean Wave, McEachern, Cape George, ballast; Sea Flower, Budroit, Pictou, Railway materials; Gulf Ranger, Langile, Tatmagauche, boards. 28—Ellen, Leadwell, Pictou, coal. 29—Dashaway, Palmer, Crapaud, 58 bbls pork; Niobe, Forrest, via Georgetown, Coal. 30—Emmanuel, Haliday, Pictou, coal; Alexander, Anderson, coal; Theresa, Deagle, Halifax, merchandize; Margaret Jane, McDonald, Halifax, mdse; Adventure Beaudreau, Halifax, mdse; Achates, Warren, Pictou, coal; Str. Somerset, Doan, Boston and Halifax, merchandize.

May 1,—Ava, Decrace, Pugwash, shingles; Bonnibell, Giffin, New York, flour and meal. 2—Gulf Ranger, Langill, Tatmagouche, metal castings; Sarah, White Pictou, bal.

CLEARED.

Ap'l 27,—Mary Kate, LeBlanc, Halifax, produce. 28—Gulf Ranger, Langill, Pt. Brule, turnips flour and fish; Sarah, White, Pictou, ballast; Fearnot, McNeill, Sydney, potatoes and turnips; S. G. Irwin, Giffin, Halifax, produce. 30—J. J. Marshall, Hughes, Pictou, ballast; Alexander, Anderson, do ballast; Raven, Logan, Pictou, ballast; Ellen, Leadwell, Pictou, ballast; Geiven, Pictou, ballast.

May 1,—Aggie Davieson, Houlihan, Pictou, one half ton copper; Maria Louisa, Dunn, Pictou, ballast.

PASSENGERS.

Per Steamer *Somerset* from Boston, Messrs. A. A. Evans, James McLean, W. G. Cushing, F. Fuller, E. G. Fuller, A. McKenzie, Thomas Doyle, Robert Watson, Kenneth Henderson, James M. Henderson, Albert Sheppard; Misses Sarah Power, Annie S. Carrol, and Maggie Toal.

DIED.

In this city, of consumption, on Sunday evening, 3rd inst., Mr. John McNeill, carpenter.

In this city, suddenly, in the 27th year of his age, V. H. P. Wetmore, Engineer and Architect, son of C. P. Wetmore, Esq. Fredricton, N. B. His loss is deeply regretted by all who knew him.

At her Son's residence, Kensington, on April 9th, Bridget, relict of the late John Higgins, of Indian River, much and deservedly regretted by friends and acquaintance. May her soul rest in peace