

as impotent as the mummery in the temple of Isis of old, which gave forth no oracles but those that were fashioned by the lips of its selfish, corrupt and cunning priests. One day or other this unholy structure must be levelled with the dust. The arm of Democracy has rather increased than lost any of its muscular power—and now that it has been bared, and given to every section of the world evidences of its might, we may reasonably indulge the hope, that it will be conciliated rather than provoked, and be permitted to sweep away this relic of a barbarous time.

It is, indeed, a circumstance to be regretted that no man's voice was effectively raised in the recent Session of Parliament in favour of this important question. It is perhaps, however, no fault of the party with whom we act in the Assembly. Had that party maintained their majority—had Messrs. McLean, Conroy and Montgomery been true to their principles—some progress might have been made towards the establishment of a system of Government which would have given us the character as well as the privileges of freemen. But these gentlemen having abused the confidence reposed in them by their constituents—having sold themselves (for what price or consideration we know not) to the vampire Compact that has sucked the blood and brains of our infant Colony—it was justly apprehended, that the question of Responsible Government, had it been introduced, would either have been strangled, or so deformed, as to render it unrecognisable by its truest and firmest friends.

Many a time during the late Session, the Speaker and his co-Delegate to London ("the learned member for Charlottetown," as he is now and then infelicitously styled) had the superlative audacity to taunt the Liberal Party with an abandonment of their adherence to Responsible Government. What shadow of a right had they to make the taunt?—with what degree of consistency could they allege a complaint upon such a ground? They were, and are, confirmed enemies to any change from the present corrupt system; for if they were not, they had the power—by means of their subservient "majority"—to effect a change. With impudence which no other men could parallel, they usurped a right to dictate to the Colonial Minister in Downing Street a policy to be pursued on questions of a local character; but, judging from a perusal of their published correspondence, and from an examination of their tavern eloquence, we are led to conclude, that, in their interviews with Earl Grey, they were discreet and taciturn on the subject of Responsible Government.

The little motives of these narrowed minded men are too apparent to need comment. They would fain have the country believe that they entertain an opinion favourable to the question of Responsible Government; but their real object was to drive their adversaries into a position which they knew they had not a majority to sustain. If we are doomed (as appears quite probable) to grope along under the present old system, while the existing Parliament survive, the country must be prepared to return at the next Election, a majority of Representatives, who will not only discountenance upon the Hustings the corrupt, aggrandizing, and illiberal views of the Official Junto and their caddies, but whose known political integrity and firmness may entitle them to the trust.

P. E. ISLAND DEBTOR TO DUNCAN McLEAN,
ESQ., M. P. P.

WE observe by the *Islander* of Friday week that some 'prentice scribe has written a very clumsy editorial for Mr. Ings, through which the public are informed, that this Colony has incurred a heavy debt of gratitude to Mr. Duncan McLean, for this gentleman is said to have originated the proposition, to appropriate for the encouragement of education the surplus money arising from the Assessment upon Land. Now, we do not at all object to the *Islander* people strewing their filthy laurels wheresoever they please. Duncan has, perhaps, deserved well of them—for if he has not changed his religion, he has certainly changed his politics, and this might be enough to entitle him to absolution for all the heretical opinions on Theology published in his Epistles to the charlottenians. But we do object to the publication of a cool and impudent falsehood, such as that contained in the editorial alluded to. However anxious Mr. McLean may be to promote Education, the

part taken by him in the Land Tax Bill Debate is not likely to render his name immortal, as the patron of letters and friend to mental improvement. The Liberal Party—or the "pseudo Liberals," as the bungler of the *Islander* denominates them—wished to appropriate the whole of the Land Tax for educational purposes, and voted against the grant of L500 to the Lieutenant Governor; but the Snarler-in-chief—becoming, no doubt, feelingly alive to the beauties of Snatcherism, and desirous, perhaps, of "feeling his way" to the back-stairs of Government House—voted to secure the L500 to Sir Donald, before any amount was set apart for education. Mr. Donald McDonald then moved that three-fourths of the Tax be appropriated for education. This was carried; and although Mr. McLean voted for it, he did nothing more than was done by every member of the Liberal Party. The day after Mr. McDonald's motion passed the Committee, the Land Assessment Bill was recommitted for the purpose of increasing the Tax on Township Lands, because Mr. D. McLean and his friends discovered, that if three-fourths of the Tax were to be set apart for Education, the L500 could not be realized for His Excellency; while the Tax on Lands in the Towns and Royalties was left unaltered. This great public benefactor voted for the additional imposition, and thus added to the burthens of the agriculturists.

It is really amusing to find the Organ of exclusiveness and monopoly—the panderer to, and apologist for, every old Tory prejudice—the filthy screen for every official iniquity—encircling the once-levelling and Democratic Duncan within its folds! Two or three years ago, the *Islander* could not use terms too opprobrious against persons who would dare to exercise the elective franchise in favour of Mr. McLean;—the "New London Radicals," as they call themselves, were then not less odious to the patrons of that paper than Kamtschatkans. But now they would be worthy of all praise, if they continued to repose confidence in their metamorphosed Representative. The article in the *Islander* was meant to be a puff for Mr. McLean and a feeler for his constituents; but it is false without being ingenious,—it is like a pill that sickens before it is swallowed, or an emetic which unsettles the stomach without renovating the system.

News by the last week's English Mail.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN IRELAND.

The preliminaries to the prosecutions against Messrs. Smith O'Brien, Meagher, and Mitchell, commenced on the 15th. As it was announced that the traversers would proceed in procession, accompanied by a train of admirers, to the Queen's Bench to appear on their recognisances, precautions were taken by the civil and military authorities to prevent any breach of the peace that might arise out of this ill-advised display. The military force in the Castle was doubled; another body of troops, with two pieces of artillery, was posted in the vicinity of the Four Courts; and the horse police patrolled the streets from an early hour in the morning. At half-past eleven o'clock the traversers, followed by about twenty or thirty gentlemen, and some members of the Confederate Clubs, walking two abreast, proceeded on foot to the courts. The mob, which was not numerous at the hour, owing perhaps to the extreme wetness of the day, preserved an ominous silence until the traversers entered the gates of the courts, when a cheer was raised for Messrs. O'Brien, Mitchell, and Meagher. The grand jury having been sworn, Mr. Justice Crampton, the presiding judge, proceeded to deliver his charge, in the course of which he dwelt at some length upon the law of sedition and its consequences, and stated in a lucid style the nature of the evidence which the grand jury should have before they found true bills of indictment. Before the rising of the court, at four o'clock, true bills were found against the traversers upon every count in the indictments sent to the jury. They were then severally given in charge, and the usual four-day rules to plead were entered. The Attorney-General was the only Crown counsel who appeared in the court. The traversers did not appear by counsel, but applied to be allowed to do so in future. At the rising of the court, the traversers were loudly cheered in the hall and upon their route homeward. On the 18th, at the sitting of the court, the Attorney-General, in reply to a question from the chief justice, intimated his intention of not resisting the motion for the traversers to appear by attorneys to offer opposition. He further added that he had not any desire to give Mr. O'Brien any trouble by compelling him to attend the court from day to day. The same rule was made in the case of the other traversers, who were absent. Mr. O'Brien was in attendance, and took his seat at the traverser's bar.

A curious move is a-foot in favour of the traversers. It is intended to challenge every juror on the panel who signed the declaration of loyalty in Dublin, on the

ground they had already prejudged the case, and hence were not eligible for impartial service in the jury box. Should the move be successful, the jury must necessarily be composed exclusively of Repealers, and the idea of obtaining a verdict of guilty melts into thin air. There is undoubtedly something feasible in this. We shall see how it turns out.

If Smith O'Brien be convicted, his property, which amounts to between four and five thousand pounds a year, will be confiscated to the Crown. One of the charges against him is tampering with the military.

Some of Mr. S. O'Brien's legal friends, we believe, Messrs. Homes, O'Hagan, and Sir Colman O'Loghlen, are engaged in searching over the state and other less remarkable trials, to supply him with materials for his address to the jury. The chief object is to ascertain where acquittals have taken place, with language as strong, and apparently as seditious, as Mr. O'Brien has used.

The drilling act has been put into operation in Dublin. Accordingly, a number of young men, thirteen in number, were arrested on Sunday evening last, April 16, while performing military evolutions in a large room of that city. They were lodged in the station-house, and brought up for examination at the head police-office on the following day, when they were committed for trial at the next commission. The offenders, if convicted, are liable to transportation.

The complimentary soiree to Messrs. S. O'Brien, Mitchell, and Meagher, alluded to in our last, was held on the evening of the 15th inst. The Music hall, in which the meeting was held, was densely crowded in every part. The interior of the building was festooned with flowers and evergreens, interspersed with a variety of banners, containing inscriptions, such as "Ireland for the Irish," "The Irish Volunteers of 82," "Welcome home, the Irish deputation from France," "The Queen, Lords, and Commons of Ireland," "Irish Legislative Independence," &c. Conspicuous above these waved a broad tricoloured flag, of yellow, white, and blue, attached to a pole 12 feet in length, at whose summit gleamed the long, bright, and thin blade of a pike of Irish manufacture. This flag was committed to the custody of Mr. T. F. Meagher during his stay in Paris, as a gift from the young men of France to the young men of Ireland. The erection of this new national emblem was the signal for a burst of applause which shook the hall, and was kept up for several minutes. At eight o'clock Mr. Smith O'Brien and Mr. T. F. Meagher made their appearance, and were received with enthusiastic shouts of applause. The chair was taken by Mr. A. Stritch, barrister. The chairman proposed the health of the Queen, which was received with a volley of hisses, and some few cheers. In the midst of the uproar a voice exclaimed, "The Queen of Ireland." "Yes," said the chairman, "The Queen of Ireland." (Cheers and hisses). A man in the gallery observed that the toast ought to be allowed to pass in silence. A few individuals drank the toast amidst hisses and groans. "The people, the true source of legitimate power," was the next toast, and was of course received with deafening applause. But the toasts of the evening were "Ireland's uncompromising patriot, Wm. Smith O'Brien, and Messrs. Meagher, O'Gorman, and Hollywood, the other deputies to France." The speeches of the traversers were just as seditious as those for which they are being prosecuted. Mr. Frazer presented an Old Volunteer flag of 82 to Mr. O'Brien, and Mr. Mitchell conferred a similar compliment on the chairman with a tri-coloured flag brought from France. The chairman expressed a hope it would wave over the chair of the president of the new constitution. The meeting separated soon after 12 o'clock.

The usual weekly meeting of the Repeal Association was held on Monday last. The proceedings were not very important. Mr. Maurice O'Connell addressed the association on the necessity that existed for peaceful and determined action; stating that if the policy which he considered the safest was not adopted, he for one, would retire from the association. A resolution condemnatory of the Government for their conduct towards Ireland was brought forward by Mr. Galway, which was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Miley in a speech of nearly two hours duration. The reverend speaker's address contained advice to the people to be peaceable, but to show a most determined front to the Government. The speaker stated that he hoped the cause of Ireland would succeed without any violence, but added, that if necessity drove the people to force, the clergy would be with them, as the clergy on the continent were with their people. The fears of Protestants as to Catholic ascendancy was next adverted to, and the speaker entered into proofs to show the groundlessness of such apprehensions. It was also stated by the same gentleman, that a British peer, whose name he was not yet at liberty to mention, had just embraced repeal opinions. Mr. John O'Connell next spoke, and recapitulated his conversation with Lord John Russell, and also the commencement of the debate on repeal, which had been adjourned till after the Easter recess. Mr. O'Connell then said—"If the people of Ireland repudiated me, and refused to allow me to labour in the cause—if they gave themselves up to bad counsels, so that I could not restrain them from a course that might be destructive, that moment I would seek in France, or in free America, an humble retirement, where I would deplore the ills of my country—where I would be free from