

TO THE ELECTORS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

I see, by a letter which appeared in the Colonial Herald of the 15th inst., signed WILLIAM COOPER, that the Honorable the Speaker of the House of Assembly is already baiting his hook for the next General Election, in the hope that his old theme, agitation, will continue his influence among the Constituency of this Colony; but I trust that his unfortunate dupes are now too wide awake to his selfish schemes to suffer themselves to be again caught by his specious alluresments—specious, I say, because he once induced them to believe, that if they would give him their confidence, he would make them proprietors of the lands which they then occupied as tenants; and agitation was then, as he wishes it to be made now, the lever of their hopes and his own interested views. As we generally judge of means by their end, let us calmly inquire what have been the effects of agitation upon the prospects of the tenants, as well as upon those of Mr. Cooper, from the time he first became its advocate to the present time; and then we shall see who are most interested in continuing the system—Mr. Cooper or the Constituency. I will instance the Constituency in this, his immediate neighbourhood.

Mr. Cooper was Agent for the Township upon which he resides, from 1820 to 1829. I will not stop to inquire into the cause of his dismissal; but when the Rental of the Lot was delivered over to his successor, the whole arrears did not exceed £340. Mr. Cooper soon afterwards became a member of the House of Assembly, when he discovered that the Leases under which the tenantry held their farms, and which, with one or two exceptions, had been all granted by himself, were not worth a straw—because, as he asserted, the Proprietor had forfeited his right to the Township, —at the same time promising them, that if they would give him pecuniary assistance, he would cross the Atlantic, attack Downing-street in person, and relieve them from the trammels of their Landlord. This proposition was favourably listened to—subscriptions were raised, and Mr. Cooper took his departure for England—laid the tenure of the lands, and the alleged forfeiture of them by the proprietors, before Lord Glenelg, then Secretary of State for the Colonies;—but returned without effecting the performance of his promise, alleging, as an excuse, that as he only represented the opinions of a minority of the then House of Assembly, the Imperial Government could not recognise him as the people's delegate; and assuring them, that if the Constituency would return representatives possessing or professing similar views with himself, and that they would give the authority of their support to a delegation to England, the grievance of paying rent would be at once redressed, and the tenantry would become proprietors of the soil. No wonder, then, when a great majority of the constituency were tenants, that, with this flattering prospect before them, Mr. Cooper succeeded at the next Election in procuring the return of a House of Assembly, the majority of whom were pledged to support his views; and their first act was to appoint him their Speaker. They then invested him with all the authority he required as their Delegate to England, voting him £300 of the public money, to defray his expenses. Thus armed, he again crosses the Atlantic, storms Downing-street the second time, but with even less success than before, for he is now refused an audience by Lord John Russell; and after a brief correspondence with his Lordship's under Secretary, he is compelled to return to the Island, discomfited at all points. It must, then, be fallacious to any man of common understanding, how utterly fallacious and unattainable Mr. Cooper's promises to the deluded Tenantry have proved.

Mr. Cooper's career of agitation has continued for about nine years unchecked—uncontrolled; and having shown that it has effected nothing beneficial for the tenantry, we will now take a view of their present position, and contrast it with what it was before they allowed themselves to be deceived by him. I have stated, that the arrears of rent on this Township, in 1829, were £340. They now amount, I understand, to the enormous sum of £2,350; and there are very few tenants on it who are not holding their farms by the forbearance of their Landlord—such has been the ruinous effect of Mr. Cooper's pernicious doctrines on this cause to rue the day when his father first lent a willing ear to them. This Township is but one among the many where the tenantry are reduced to an equally deplorable state, from one of comparative independence and comfort, and from the same cause.

We will now look on the other side of the picture, and see how Mr. Cooper's interests stand affected by "agitation." Mr. Cooper, in and previous to the year 1829, was an obscure individual, and only known—and that in this immediate neighbourhood—as the rigid enforcer of the rents due to the proprietor of this Township; and he first obtained notoriety and influence, after the loss of his Agency, by the agitation of that question which has ruined the tenantry, and eventually raised him to the exalted pinnacle he at present occupies. In the first instance, it procured him a seat in the House of Assembly—it drew from the pockets of the Tenantry subscriptions to the amount of upwards of £200; to it he owes his present return as a member of that body—it placed him in the Chair as Speaker; it obtained for him £300 of the public money as a delegate to England; and to it he is also indebted for £343 16s. 8d., received by him in his several capacities as a member and Speaker of the Assembly.

I have thus shown, that beyond the honors derived from the favour of the deluded tenantry of this Colony, it has been the means of putting into his pocket the sum of £843 16s. 8d., and upwards; and it must be evident, that his only prospect of retaining his present position is the continued agitation of the question which has placed him there, for without this he must rapidly descend to his original obscurity.

Follow Electors, will not this plain statement of facts be sufficient to open your eyes to the selfish designs of this man? I have every confidence that it will, and that, should he, or those who profess similar principles, again appear upon the hustings, you will not fail to scout them from them as men who have induced you to persevere in a course which has finally left you at the mercy of your Landlords, under a pressure of rent which many of you, with all your exertion, will never be able to redeem.

I am, yours,  
AN ELECTOR OF KING'S COUNTY.  
Bay Fortune, January 22, 1842.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir: You will oblige a Subscriber by inserting the following Article on Education, which has been extended to a greater length than at first intended, I must therefore reserve the conclusion for a subsequent number of your valuable periodical.

Yours,  
PHILOMATH.

"This is a beaten track;—ne'er beat enough,  
Till enough learnt the truths it should inspire."—YOUNG.

It has long been a subject of regret, as well as astonishment, to the reflecting, that notwithstanding the large annual amount of money which, for several years past, has been granted by the Legislature for the encouragement of the numerous schools throughout this Island, that Education should be at so low an ebb. The question, then, is, What is the reason—and how is the defect to be remedied? In answer to the first part of the question, I would reply—First, Because the qualifications of Teachers are fixed at too low a standard, and the paltry pittance allowed is too insignificant to induce respectable and talented Teachers to come amongst us. Secondly, Because the present system of subscription is a beggarly one, and subjects a Teacher to the degradation, whim, caprice, and often the malice of his employers. Lastly, Because this system has caused, and so long as it is continued, will cause, a frequent change of Teachers in every settlement in the Island, by which means, one Teacher pulls down what another has built up; and by a recurrence of these changes, the pupils, at the end of 5 or 6 years, have made but very trifling progress; and after thirty

years' experience, I feel confident it will be so to the end of the chapter, if the present system be persevered in. Now, to answer the remaining part of the question proposed, viz: How is the evil to be remedied? I reply—First, Raise the standard of the Teacher's qualifications. Secondly, Abolish the subscription system, and support a general Education by a general assessment or taxation.

I beg leave to make some remarks on the qualifications of a Teacher. It is a very common idea, that almost any person can educate little children, and that it requires little or no ability; but it will be found that this is a great mistake, for if it be the business of such a person to lay the foundation of religion and virtue in the infant mind, with every grace that can adorn the Christian character, there must be something more done than merely saying a few printed lessons by rote, without knowing whether the children really understand what they say. How frequently may we find children, 10 or 12 years of age, who cannot answer the most simple question, and who, nevertheless, have been at school for years. To give children ideas, is a part of education seldom thought of; but if we really wish to form the character of the rising generation, and to improve the condition of society generally, attention must be paid to these things. The mind of a child is compared by the celebrated Locke to a sheet of blank paper; and if it be the business of a tutor to inscribe lessons on this mind, it will require much patience, gentleness, perseverance, self-possession, energy, knowledge of human nature, and, above all, piety, to accomplish so great a work with success.

Whoever is in possession of these requisites may be considered as a proper person to manage a school, where he will find numerous opportunities of displaying each and all of these qualifications. I compare a school to a world in miniature, the head or ruler of which is the master. One would suppose, to hear the observations of some persons, that mere automatons would do for Teachers. Such persons consider system as every thing, while the persons who are to teach it have been considered as secondary objects; but a system, however perfect in itself, will be productive of little good unless it be committed to those who possess some degree of skill, as the best watch will go wrong if not properly attended to. We cannot, therefore, be too circumspect in the choice of Tutors.

There is something so powerful in virtue and correctness of deportment that even infants respect it, and this will operate more powerfully on their minds than many imagine. Let it not be supposed, however, that I am vain enough to believe that I am in possession of all the qualifications I have been recommending. We must all be prepared to fall short of what we aim at; but I trust I know the source from whence all assistance is to be derived; and I am taught to believe, that such assistance will not be withheld from those who diligently seek it. I am well aware that I shall have to render an account of my stewardship to the Almighty, for every child that may have been placed under my care, and I feel that to do so unblameably, requires much assistance from above.

Let not those, then, who are similarly circumstanced with myself, think that I write in the spirit of arrogance, with a preconceived opinion of my own sufficiency; I wish that all who teach may be better qualified. I know some who are an honor to their profession, as well as the situation they fill; but I am sorry to say, I think they do not all meet with the encouragement they merit. Those who do their duty best, do not always meet with most encouragement; but there is one thing to be said—if a man's conscience does not upbraid him, he need not care what the world thinks of him, for conscience is a faithful monitor, and will seldom deceive us if we attend to its dictates.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir: There are many friends of true religion in this Island, at present, rejoicing in the hope that there is springing up among us a deeper interest in the spiritual concerns of men. It becomes, therefore, at this time, an important question, not only how shall this interest be called into exertion;—but, how shall exertion be made with the best prospect of success?

We indeed hope to see our Bible Society carrying that precious Book to every man's door, and leaving every man with a fair copy, or at least no longer with a fair excuse for being without one. We hope to see the different denominations professing the truth eventually, although only gradually, supplying every settlement with Evangelical preachers and teachers—men who know the Gospel which they profess, and practise what they know. All this we hope to see, ere long, accomplished. But, in the mean time, is nothing to be done for those who have seldom or never the opportunity of hearing the sound of the preacher's voice? Is nothing to be done to arouse the many who have bibles and do not read them, or have even preachers and do not regard them?—to the necessity of opening the closed book, and listening to the neglected word? Is there no way, at present within our reach, of sending cheap, every-day preachers to every house—preachers who will tell men what they seldom hear, home truths by the fire-side—preachers who can be faithful without giving personal offence,—who will be faithful without respect of time, or person, or place? Yes! there is. There are publications so cheap in the purchase—so simple in their language—so interesting in their style—so evangelical in their doctrines, and yet so far from the appearance of a large book or a formidable undertaking—that it has been found by experience that there are few who can see them without desiring to read them—few who have read some of them without desiring to read more—few who will not find in them a word in season for themselves, and a silent call from God to consider their ways.

When I further state, that these publications are free from all sectarian bias, having to undergo a previous examination by a Sub-committee, composed of men of all Evangelical denominations, every one of whom is interested in excluding works of an opposite sectarian tendency, I need scarcely add, that I allude to the Books and Tracts of the Religious Tract Society.

Now, surely, Mr. Editor, there is, among all denominations of this Island, a sufficient number of persons who have received the truth in the love of it, to form a branch of this society, and import, on the society's easy terms, a supply of its Books and Tracts. True religion must be at a very low ebb indeed, if such a number cannot be found in Charlottetown alone, who, forgetting self and the sect, are willing to make those little sacrifices for Christ and the souls of men which a hearty co-operation in such an object would require. Sacrifices! do I say? Alas! that we should ever think any thing, in the common acceptance of the term, a sacrifice, which is a plain debt of gratitude to Him who gave even his own soul a sacrifice for sinners—a bare act of duty to Him who gave himself, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God!

I will merely now observe, Mr. Editor, in conclusion, that if any of your readers think that it is not yet the time to engage in an undertaking of this kind, I would remind him that, while we sleep, the enemy is awake—while we are withholding our wheat, he is sowing his tares.

Yours faithfully,  
CATHOLICUS.

3d. February, 1842.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir:—I belong to that class of persons who live and support their families by tilling the ground, which I was taught to do in my boyhood. I was also taught to read and write a little—sufficient to transact my little affairs. I read the Newspapers occasionally, and can discourse on the news of the day. I can boast of a moderate copulency, not from wines and luxurious dishes, but from good, substantial food; and if I may be allowed to be my own trumpeter, I live on excellent terms with my neighbours. I pay as I go, and live independently—in short, I thought I possessed the necessary qualities to constitute the Gentleman, until I saw a late number of the Royal Gazette, in which the Annual Report of the Central Agricultural Society is given, where one of

the speakers, J. D. Haszard, Esq., makes a clean and clear distinction between "Gentlemen and Farmers."

Now, Sir, I think it due to myself and brother Farmers, to require from Mr. Haszard, that he would, at his earliest convenience, point out to us, for our information, the distinguishing qualities of a Gentleman, or the reason why some of us, at least, are not worthy of the appellation.

I remain, Dear Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
A FARMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir:—I wish, through the medium of your paper, to bring under the notice of the public and the proper authorities the conduct of the Deputy Receiver of Land Tax in Princetown Royalty. This gentleman, in the most inconsistent and singular manner, at one time refuses to take the English Shilling for more than 1s. 3d., and at another allows 1s. 6d. He assigns as a reason for such conduct that when he received the proceeds of the Land Tax for 1840 to the Treasury, the notes of every description were taken from the bag, and the silver returned, because the English Shillings were charged at 1s. 6d. Whether this statement is or is not correct I am not prepared to say.

The above remarks are penned, not out of any feeling of animosity towards the Deputy Receiver, but merely to inform the public in what manner they may, at times, be imposed upon.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
A FREEHOLDER.

Princetown Royalty, 29th Dec. 1841.

EXCHEQUER BILL AFFAIR.

CRIMINAL COURT, SATURDAY.

(From the Sun.)

It being generally understood that the trial of Edward Beaumont Smith, for the forgery of Exchequer bills, would take place to-day, the Court was crowded at an early hour. On the bench we noticed Lord Montague, Sir Thomas Troubridge, Sir John Deane Paul, and several influential persons in the City. Shortly before ten o'clock, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Sir Thomas Wilde, entered the Court, and took their seats within the bar. At ten o'clock, Mr. Baron Parke took his seat on the Bench, and the prisoner was immediately placed at the Bar. He appeared collected, but looked extremely pale.

Mr. CLARKE, the Clerk of the Arraignment, then said—"Edward Beaumont Smith, you are indicted for that you on the 10th of August last, at the Parish of Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, did feloniously forge a certain Exchequer Bill, dated the 16th of June, 1841, and numbered 6405, for the sum £1000, with interest, to defraud Her Majesty the Queen. In a second count you are charged with feloniously uttering and putting off a like Exchequer Bill. In other counts you are charged in a like manner with intent to defraud Thomas Spring Baron Montague, Comptroller-General of Her Majesty's Exchequer; and in two other counts you are charged in a like manner with the intent to defraud Francis Townly Ibbertson. Are you guilty or not guilty?"

The Prisoner, in a firm voice, said, "My Lord, I plead Guilty."

Mr. Baron PARKE then directed the Clerk of the Arraignment to call the prisoner up for judgment.

Mr. CLARKE—"Edward Beaumont Smith, you stand convicted upon your own confession, of forgery. Have you anything to say why the Court should not give you judgment according to law?"

The Prisoner then read the following address, in a low tone of voice, and apparently under feelings of great agony:—

"I pray your Lordship's indulgence while I offer a few words to your consideration, before you discharge the duty which my conduct has imposed upon you, that of passing sentence upon me. I would have received that sentence in respectful silence, and have thereby shortened the period of my painful exposure as a public criminal at this bar, and would have returned in penitence to my cell, did I not feel that I owe it to public justice, to the innocent persons whom my conduct may have placed in circumstance of suspicion, and also to myself, to say a few words. The crime I have committed is great. I do not attempt to excuse or to extenuate it; but it will not be forgotten that I have submitted myself to meet and exclusively to bear all the consequences of that crime, and I have not sought to screen myself, by the addition of duplicity or meanness, and I respectfully implore the Court not to think that I do not feel all the weight and enormity of the offence itself, because I humbly call its attention to circumstances which are calculated to show that I have not become altogether debased in my feelings and principles. Pecuniary difficulty, arising from misplaced confidence and unconnected with discredit, and of very limited extent, not exceeding a few hundred pounds, although beyond my means to meet, first exposed me to the suggestions of those who tempted me to obtain a temporary relief by the fraudulent fabrication of Exchequer Bills, to be pledged for a short time, and then to be redeemed and cancelled for ever. I yielded to the temptation, but without obtaining the promised relief, and once committed, I became in the power of the tempter, and my retreat has been prevented. Alured and beguiled by a plausibility, power, and talent which I could not resist, I became entangled beyond escape, and while Exchequer Bills were obtained from me to an enormous extent, I never derived benefit, even to the small extent necessary to relieve me from my comparatively trifling embarrassments, and I am at this moment in debt for money actually borrowed from sources unconnected with Exchequer Bills to pay off my original incumbrances. A sordid or avaricious motive has never influenced me, and I have been sacrificed to the objects of others. Whatever speculations may have been carried on by those who have used these Exchequer Bills, no profit, or even account either of moneys raised, or speculations entered into, or of the losses or gains which have resulted, have ever reached me, and never was intended to do so. Year after year, bills have been wrung from me, under pretence of redeeming and cancelling those outstanding, in order to prevent discovery, and afterwards, by the repeated misapplication of them, the necessity was created for more, to accomplish the original purpose; and thus the frightful issue which has taken place was occasioned. If those yet unstained by guilt could appreciate the horrors which attend a course of crime, no sentence of the law would be necessary to warn and deter them from entering upon it. I am born of a family upon which disgrace never lighted till now; educated in principles of integrity and honour, I have lived respected, and, I believe, esteemed; and I have enjoyed the confidence of many highly honourable persons. I am now, by my own confession, a guilty criminal, exposed and trembling at the bar of justice, and shrinking with agony from the gaze of my former friends. If any there are who are disposed to think my principles and education aggravate my crime,

let them forbear their censure till they have also estimated by how much they deepen my condition, and aggravate my punishment. I have lived for years, in the certain anticipation of this dreadful hour, and knowing that it was certain to come, except overborne by my own feelings, I should escape it by a still greater crime or by flight; uncertain how soon the period of detection would occur, every day, and almost every hour, has awakened some alarm lest it should have arrived, and that my character, station and comfort were destroyed for ever. My lord, during the time that has past I have had the guilty means and strong temptation to use Exchequer bills, to raise sufficient money to enable me to fly, and thereby escape my present disgrace. But, however the word honour may be supposed to be prostituted by my using it, I yet declare that I have been restrained from flying, or raising money for such a purpose, because I knew that in my absence suspicion would arise that others had been either negligently or criminally instrumental in the commission of the fraud, and that public alarm would be the consequence to a greater extent than the evil justified. During the long period of my distress, therefore, although I was overcome, and induced to continue the commission of my offences, to avoid meeting immediate disgrace, and forbore to make a full disclosure of my previous conduct, which I had often desired to do; I yet always resolved that whenever the time of discovery should come, that I would remain and instantly avow myself as the solely guilty official person, and make the best reparation in my power, by preventing unnecessary alarm and agitation to the public, and that I would bear, with whatever pain and remorse, the whole consequence of my guilt, and not permit the innocent and honourable persons in office, whether high or low, to be exposed to unjust suspicion. However guilty, therefore, I yet am voluntarily a prisoner, and destitute of means, having acted under the influence of feelings much more consonant with my general character than are the acts which have brought me to this bar, and you, my lord, by the depositions before you, will have learned that with ample opportunity to escape, and when suspicion had not in the slightest degree alighted upon me, I, unasked, made to the respectable Solicitor of the Treasury the most distinct confession that I was the sole official author of the mischief, and instantly submitted myself to the doom which now awaits me, and which presents the prospect of the remainder of my life, bereft of everything that can render life desirable, and as a means only by its continuance of protracted punishment to me, and of wretchedness to those near and dear to me, and who are interested in the fate of so unhappy a being. The only use of that life now must be to enable me, by the fullest disclosure of every part of the transactions, to diminish the consequences of my crime, and, as much as possible, to offer the only atonement in my power; and, dreadful as every one perceives my present situation to be, I can declare, that, whatever may await me, the horror cannot equal what I have endured during the years of anticipation of the discovery of my guilt. My lord, I await your lordship's sentence in a spirit of respectful submission, and repeat that I know my crime has been great, but I also feel assured that in the execution of your high functions, and in the judicial censure of my offences, your lordship will never be unmindful that mercy is the best attendant upon justice, and that while the best of men need to cry aloud for mercy at Heaven's bar, it should not be forgotten in the administration of justice upon earth."

The prisoner appeared to be deeply affected at several parts of the address, more particularly when he alluded to his family, and the disgrace he had entailed upon those who were near and dear to him. When he had concluded, he leaned heavily against the bar, with his head hanging down, as if unable to support himself.

Mr. BARON PARKE said—"The course you have pursued on this occasion, in publicly acknowledging yourself guilty of the heinous offences imputed to you, and which I learn, from the depositions and from yourself, have been carried on for a long series of years back, leaves to me only the duty of announcing to you the punishment which the law assigns to your offence. It is a painful duty to me, but it would have been a much more painful one had I to pronounce that punishment which was assigned to it a few years ago; because I should have had to announce to you, notwithstanding all that you have said in the way of palliation, that your life must be forfeited to the law, and that you should perish by an ignominious death on the scaffold. The humanity of the law now prevents that, and leaves you time for repentance. But, notwithstanding what you have said, and the contrition you have expressed, you must have been aware of the tremendous consequences of the crime of which you have acknowledged yourself guilty, and which it is now my painful duty to pronounce upon you. That to me is a painful duty to discharge, because I am sorry to pronounce it upon a person who has filled a situation of trust and confidence, who has walked in the station of a gentleman, and who belongs to a family of the highest honor and respectability, and whose name is illustrious in the naval annals of this country. It is painful for me to pronounce the sentence of the law upon you; but, looking at the consequences of your crime, and the deep injury it has inflicted upon society, I can do no less than to pass upon you the severest sentence which the law allows the Court to pronounce, namely, that of transportation for life. You have done yourself no discredit by the course you have pursued—you have done yourself no harm; and I trust that those who may hear the statement that has fallen from your lips to-day, may take warning, and see what fatal consequences are the result of a single deviation from the principles of honor and integrity. It is impossible not to feel for you as a man; but as a magistrate it is my duty to censure in the strongest language I can the wicked crime you have committed, which has entailed ruin upon hundreds of individuals, and loss to many of their whole fortune, all in consequence of the want of principle you have shown. Under these circumstances I should be wanting in my duty if I held out to you the least hope that the severest sentence of the law will not be carried into effect—a sentence which, as you yourself have said, consigns you to punishment for life, bereft of all that renders life desirable. By law, for the rest of your existence, you will be a slave in a foreign land, and condemned to hard labour. The sentence of the Court upon you, Edward Beaumont Smith, is, that for this offence you be transported beyond the seas for the term of your natural life."

The prisoner here fell back into the arms of Mr. Cope, and was assisted by him and one of the officers down the stairs of the dock.