

COUNCIL CHAMBER,

TUESDAY, March 3rd, 1863.

The General Assembly of this Island having been summoned by His Excellency GEORGE DUNDAS, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, to meet this day, for the dispatch of business, the following members of the Legislative Council were present:

- The Hon. Mr. Palmer, The Hon. Mr. Montgomery, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Yeo, Mr. Walker, Mr. Beer, Mr. Dingwell, Mr. Lord, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Goff, Mr. McDonald.

His Excellency came down to the Council Chamber at three o'clock, and being seated on the Throne, the House of Assembly were summoned to attend him immediately at the Bar of that House. His Excellency then intimated to both Houses, through the Clerk of the Legislative Council, that he would not proceed to declare his reasons for calling them together till the Council should choose a President and the House of Assembly a Speaker, according to law. The House of Assembly having withdrawn, the Honourable Donald Montgomery was unanimously chosen President of the Council. In a short time the House of Assembly returned, and the Honourable Thomas Heath Haviland addressed His Excellency, and stated that the House had chosen him as their Speaker, which choice His Excellency was pleased to approve and confirm. The Hon. Mr. Haviland then claimed, on behalf of the members of the House, all their ancient rights and privileges, including freedom from arrest, freedom of speech in their debates, and free access to His Excellency at all times—all of which were readily granted by His Excellency.

The Speech with which His Excellency was then pleased to open the Session was published in the Examiner of last Monday.

The House of Assembly then withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire. After prayers, the House proceeded to business, which amounted to little more than the appointment of Officers and the usual standing Committees.

OFFICERS.

- Chaplain—Rev. David Fitzgerald, Clerk—J. Barrett Cooper, Esquire, Usher of the Black Rod—Henry Palmer, Esquire, Reporter—James Ramsay, Messenger—W. C. Trowan, Door-keeper—John Scott.

COMMITTEES.

To prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Hon. Messrs. Beer, Goff, and Lord. On engrossed Bills—Hon. Messrs. Walker and Beer. To regulate the expenditure of the House—Hon. Messrs. MacLaren, Goff, and MacDonald. To make arrangements for printing the proceedings of the House—Hon. Messrs. Palmer and Walker. On expiring Laws—Hon. Messrs. Ramsay, Beer and Lord. House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 4th.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. McDonald, it was resolved that a Committee be appointed to draw up standing Rules for the government of this House. Committee—Hon. Messrs. McDonald and Palmer.

Hon. Mr. Yeo obtained leave of absence for one week, and Hon. Mr. Goff till Monday next. Adjourned till to-morrow at 4 o'clock.

THURSDAY, March 5th.

His Honor the PRESIDENT informed the House that he had received a communication from the President of the Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute, offering to admit the members of this House into their Lecture room free.

A Message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Col. Gray, with a request that this House would appoint a committee to join a committee of the House of Assembly, to take charge of Government House and public furniture. Hon. Messrs. Beer and Lord were appointed a Committee on the part of this House.

A Message was also brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, with a request that this House would appoint a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly, to keep up a good correspondence between the two branches of the Legislature during the session.

Resolved, That the Hon. Messrs. Ramsay, Walker and Palmer be a Committee for that purpose on the part of this House. Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

FRIDAY, March 6th.

His Honor the President laid before the House a communication which he had received from the President of the Charlotte-town Debating Club and Reading Room, stating that by a resolution of that society, the members of this House will be welcome to their room and to all the privileges enjoyed by the members of that Institution, except that of voting. Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hon. Mr. BEER, chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's speech at the opening of the session, reported a draft address, which was received, read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. PALMER, chairman of the Committee appointed to receive Tenders for printing and binding the Journal of this House, reported that they had received four Tenders for printing and binding, and one for binding only, which were as follows—

One from George S. Bremner, engaging to perform the work for Seventeen shillings for every sheet of four pages, and to bind each copy for the sum of Three shillings.

One from Frederick W. Hughes, engaging to perform the work for Fourteen shillings per sheet, and to bind each copy for Three shillings.

One from George T. Hazard, engaging to perform the work for Eighteen shillings per sheet, and to bind each copy for Three shillings and six pence.

One from Messrs. Reilly & Doyle, engaging to perform the work for Sixteen shillings and six pence per sheet, and to bind each copy for two shillings and nine pence.

And one from Daniel Beane, engaging to bind each copy for Two shillings and eight pence.

Mr. Hughes' tender being the lowest, it was accepted, and the time for the performance of the contract limited to the first of November next.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD, chairman of the Special Committee appointed to draw up standing Rules for the government of the House, submitted a code of Rules, which were received and read the first time. The House then went into committee on the said Rules—Hon. Mr. MacDonald in the Chair. After some desultory debate the President resumed the chair, the Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again. Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

SATURDAY, March 7th.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into further consideration the standing rules of the House.

On the 24th paragraph, which relates to the fixing up of the Council Pew in St. Paul's Church, being read.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL said—that is something new, and I think it would be setting a bad precedent, for I cannot see what claim one church has to it more than another. If this is granted other churches will ask for the same indulgence. Besides, I do not see that we have power to grant away money for that purpose.

Hon. the ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The fact of the case, Mr. Chairman, is that that pew was appropriated to the use of the Council when the church was built. Ever since that time it has been so retained, and so long as it is so, it is well for us to recognize it. No pew in any other church in the city is so appropriated. There was some discussion in the House of Assembly last year about the grants to churches, but what your assembly was I do not know; perhaps His Honor the President, who was then a member of that House, can inform us. If the assessment on the Pews set apart for the members of the Legislature is not paid as formerly we will be in as worse situation on account of paying this Rule; but while it remains in our use it should be in reality what it is alleged to be. I am willing that it should revert back to the church—that the church should resume the ownership of it and sell it if they please; but while it remains as it is I can see no objection to passing that Rule.

Hon. the PRESIDENT.—I understood that the Pews in St. Paul's church belonged to the public, and that they were paid for by the public; that the church Wardens had no particular claim upon them, and if the public did not pay the assessment they would be sold. I believe that it was the conclusion of the House of Assembly that, after last year, no pews would be paid for out of the public funds. In the other churches pews are also set apart for the use of the members of the Legislature, but I have gone to some of them and found them filled up with others so that I could not get in.

Hon. Mr. LORD.—I entertain an opinion similar to that expressed by His Honor Mr. Dingwell. I would not offer any factious opposition, but if we give even a small sum for

one church other churches will look for the same. If Pews are set apart for the use of the members of the Legislature they should be paid for, but I do not think they should be paid for out of the public funds. I will oppose the paragraph.

Hon. Mr. BEER.—I think your Honor will find that there will be no appropriation to any of the churches in the city this year; there was an understanding to that effect last year. A trifling sum might be expended to fit up a Pew as long as it belongs to the public, but I think it will soon be taken out of the churchwardens hands. It will be leased or sold in order that the assessment may be paid. However, I will not oppose a trifling sum to keep the pew in repair, and therefore will offer no objection to the paragraph.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I do not pretend to be versed in the subject, but I know that when the Body to which I belong built a church in town they set apart a few for the use of the Legislature. They also keep it in repair, and I do not know how a contrary rule can be applied in this case. I will oppose the paragraph.

Hon. the ATTORNEY GENERAL.—If the Church can extinguish the right which the Council has in the pews they will be overjoyed. The Council pew alone will make two single pews of the largest size, and the Church Wardens would get a handsome price for them. I think it is my duty to say that if the ownership revert back to the Church they will exclude the members of the Council from it. I hope it will be decided one way or other this Session. It will not alter the state of matters if the House of Assembly decide that no more shall be paid for pews, for this Rule will then fall to the ground; but in the event of no action being taken on the matter this Session there will then be a necessity for this Rule.

Hon. the PRESIDENT.—There was a motion made in the House of Assembly last year to dispense with the amounts paid for pews in the several Churches in the city; but it appears that they were public property, and a Bill was introduced to authorize the sale of them. There was an understanding however, that, at the commencement of a new House, those grants should be done away with, altogether, and it is not likely that any thing will be given for pews this Session; but if they are to remain as they are at present, they should be kept in a respectable manner.

Hon. Mr. LORD.—Saint Paul's Church like all the other Churches in the city, was built, I believe by subscription, and those pews were set apart for the use of members of the Legislature with an understanding that so much should be paid for them yearly as pew rent. If the rent is not paid the ownership of them will of course revert to the Churches. But I do not think such a grant should emanate from this end of the Building, for it amounts, in my opinion, to the appropriation of money. I do not think we have any right to pass such a grant, particularly when the Revenue is in a state of insolvency.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL.—It appears that the pews do not belong to the public, and I will oppose the Rule, not on account of the amount which will be required, but because I think it would be establishing a very bad precedent.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY.—From what has been said by His Honor the Attorney General, it appears that those pews were set apart for the use of the Legislature; and while they occupy them I think they should pay the rent; but if, as His Honor the President has stated, nothing is to be given for that purpose this year I do not see how we are going to retain them.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Up to the present time the pews are ours, and we must have a poor opinion of the extent of our powers if we think we cannot appropriate 30 or 40 shillings to keep a pew in repair. Doing away with those grants for pew rent has been talked of for the last 4 or 5 years; and if done away with this year, then it sweeps away this Rule, if not, we will have the benefit of it.

Hon. the PRESIDENT.—I know that there is some difference between this pew and those in the other Churches in the City as it belongs to the public, while the others belong to the Churches. If the pews in Saint Paul's Church are not required for the use of the Legislature, I believe the Church Wardens will be willing to purchase them; but if, on the other hand, they are to be retained they should be kept in a fit state for gentlemen to go into.

Hon. Mr. BEER.—I think it would be better to withdraw the Rule for the present till we see what action the House of Assembly will take in the matter. If they withdraw the grant the Rule will fall to the ground; but if not there will be no objection to giving a small sum to fit up the pew. One reason why it was proposed to do away with those grants was that one small Church in the City refused, from principle, to accept of the grant.

Hon. Mr. LORD.—I would rather have the question settled at the present time. I would do away with those grants altogether, for I do not see any necessity for the same, and I am determined to oppose them at any time, not because I am afraid or ashamed to vote a small sum, but we should be very careful not to give offence in Church matters.

On motion the Rule was withdrawn.

The remaining clauses were then read and agreed to, after which the House resumed, and the chairman reported that the committee had agreed to the Rules with certain amendments.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Beer, the order of the day for the second reading of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech was gone into. Hon. Mr. Walker in the Chair. On the third paragraph, relating to praying Her Majesty the Queen to use her influence to procure privileges for this Island in regard to shipping, similar to those conceded by the Government of France to the Province of Canada, Hon. Mr. McDONALD asked for information as to what those principles were?

Hon. the PRESIDENT.—The principal privilege asked for is, that vessels built in this Island may be registered and disposed of in France.

Hon. Mr. BEER.—That is the principal privilege sought for. At present, I believe that Canada is the only British Colony which enjoys that privilege, and some of our commercial men thought it would be a great boon if a similar privilege were extended to this Island.

Hon. Mr. LORD.—We do not know what the privileges sought for are, except from hearsay. I think the matter ought to be explained by his Honor the Leader of the Government. I thought one of the principal things sought for was the admission of our timber into the French market free of duty.

Hon. the ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I think, Mr. Chairman, that the matter has been well explained by their Honors who have addressed the Committee. When the public documents are laid before the House, which is seldom done till the Governor's Speech is answered, we will see what the privileges sought for are. In the meantime, I may state that the principal privilege sought for is, that we may be allowed to register and sell our ships in France. I do not think any favorable reduction of the duty on timber is contemplated.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD.—I have no objection to the clause. All I desired was to obtain the information which has now been supplied by his Honor the Attorney General and the other members who have addressed the Committee. The clause was then agreed to.

On the seventh clause, relating to the registration of electors, being read—

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL said—I think the registration of electors' votes will entail a good deal of expense as well as trouble, and I do not know that it will be any great advantage, for some men may register their names a few days afterwards make over their property, and yet vote at too election. Other men may be too careless to register their votes; much trouble, to go a long distance to register their names; and thus by trying to get clear of one evil, we may run into another. And, if we alter our election laws every year, the people in the country cannot know or follow them out. There should be some established rule that the people could understand; but if we continue to alter our laws every year, we will never arrive at any system that the people will comprehend, for some time necessarily elapse before any law can be well understood in the country. I would not be for a registration of votes, unless I were well convinced that it would be an advantage, and that the object in view would be obtained thereby.

Hon. Mr. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—His Honor who has just set down appears to have some extraordinary ideas in regard to the registration of votes. According to his idea we should not endeavour to make any improvements in our Election Laws. Our Constitution was granted, if I remember right in the year 1773, and very many alterations have been made since then; but according to His Honor's idea we should never try to make any improvements. The Elective Franchise is one of the dearest rights of British subjects. It is our duty to endeavour to improve our Election Laws as much as possible, and I do not hesitate to say that they may be greatly improved. I am not prepared to present to you any plan, or to say what the enactments of this Law should be; it is sufficient for the present to give our opinion as to whether there should be a registration of votes or not. I believe it is a sound principle and would not be very expensive. His Honor has objected to it on the ground that a man may register his vote to-day and dispose of his property to-morrow. That may be the case now, but the Law provides for it. It is a matter easily provided for. It may be done as is done in other countries, particularly in Great Britain; but I do not say that we should adopt the

combersome mode which is in practice there. It is certainly a subject to be approached with care, and when the Bill is introduced your Honors will have an opportunity of saying whether you are prepared to vote for it on its own merits or not. I think every member of this House will say that there should be a registration of votes such as the country can afford. It is needless at present to point you to all those frauds and impositions, to those violations of Law and of men's oaths which are now committed for want of a system of registration of votes. All your honors do by assenting to this paragraph is to express an opinion that there should be a system of registration adopted on economical principles.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL.—I did not say that there should not be any alteration in the Election Law; at least that was not my intention; but I said that if they were altered every year the people in the country would not understand them. Hon. Mr. BEER.—I think it is necessary that some Law should be enacted by which people would really know whether they had votes or not. It is the case in the United States and other parts of the world, and I do not know why it should not be introduced into this colony. I remember that at the last election there was a great deal of inconvenience for want of such a Law, for many persons really did not know whether they had votes or not. At one polling place there were at least 100 persons sworn, and so much time was occupied that all the votes could not be polled in one day. The Returning officer opened the Poll next day, consequently all the votes polled on that day were illegal. Some persons would swear that they were qualified to vote, while others similarly situated refused to qualify. If they were registered, people would know whether they had votes or not. It would save a great deal of trouble and expense. It would prevent false swearing, perjuries, and all such things. For these reasons I will support the paragraph which has been read.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD.—I agree with what has been said by the last speaker. I have run four elections, or three of which there were scrutines held. I think the registration of votes is really necessary; and I also think that if voting by ballot were adopted our system would be much more perfect than it is at present. It might entail some expense but it is better to go into it than to allow the Law to remain as it is at present. People often come up to vote and their votes are objected to from some factious motives. I will support the paragraph as it stands in the Address.

Hon. the PRESIDENT.—I shall support the paragraph, reserving my opinion on the details till the Bill comes before us. I know there is a great deal of difficulty as the Law stands at present. I would like to see some plan adopted to do away with swearing.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY.—A great deal depends on how the Bill is drawn up, and till it is before us we can scarcely give an opinion upon it. However, I think some such Law is necessary; and I will, therefore, support the paragraph as it has been read.

Hon. Mr. McLAREN.—I think some such system is absolutely necessary. It is certainly very discretionary to see so many of the people sworn, and I would be glad to see the practice abolished. It would be a great satisfaction, providing the plan adopted should not be too expensive.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL.—I have no great objection to the Registration, but I would not be pledged to any particular line of conduct. That was the reason that I objected to it.

The paragraph was then agreed to.

House resumed, chairman reported the Address agreed to without any amendment.

AFTERNOON.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay presented a Petition of William S. Macgowan, against the return of Andrew Archibald McDonald for the Second District of King's County. The Petition was received and read, and the House resolved itself into a committee of privileges.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay in the Chair. It was resolved that the allegations in the petition warranted an enquiry, and that the matter be investigated by the House on Monday the 16th instant.

On motion of His Honor the Attorney General, it was resolved that the Colonial Secretary be desired to attend at the Bar of this House on Monday next, with the Writ of election, Poll Books and other papers relating to the election for the Second District of King's County. House resumed. Adjourned till Monday next at 11 o'clock.

MONDAY, March 9th.

A Message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, desiring this House to appoint a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly to take charge of the Legislative Library. Committee on the part of this House—Hon. Messrs. Beer, Henderson and Walker.

The Colonial Secretary also stated that, as it had been intimated to him that the Hon. Alexander Anderson, who had been elected a member of this House, was present and waiting to be sworn in, he had attended at the Bar with the Writ of election.

Hon. Mr. MacLaren and the Hon. Mr. Beer; the Oath was administered to him by the Clerk, and he took his seat.

The Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech was read the third time and passed.

Resolved, That the same Committee who prepared the Address be a committee to wait upon His Excellency to know when he would be pleased to receive it.

Resolved, That the Address be presented to His Excellency by the whole House in a body.

Hon. Colonial Secretary appeared at the Bar of the House with the Writ of election, Poll books and other documents relating to the election for the Second District of King's County.

Ordered, That they do lie on the table.

Hon. Mr. BEER, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency to ascertain at what time he would receive the Address, reported, that they had waited upon His Excellency, and he had been pleased to say that he would receive the Address of the Legislative Council at half-past eleven o'clock on Wednesday next, in the Legislative Library.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock.

At 4 o'clock the House met and adjourned for want of a quorum.

TUESDAY, March 10th.

The House met at 11 o'clock, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Beer, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Ramsay, it was resolved that, in honor of the auspicious event of the marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, this House do adjourn.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, March 11th.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS AND HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY. The Address, in answer to the Speech at the opening of the Session, was this day presented to His Excellency in the Legislative Library, by the whole House in a body. His Excellency was pleased to make the following

REPLY.

Mr. President and Honorable Members of the Legislative Council: I thank you for your Address, and for the assurance that you will give your careful consideration to the measures which will be brought before you.

I trust that your deliberations may tend to the advancement and well-being of this Colony.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD called the attention of the House to the circumstance that no arrangement had yet been made with regard to the publication of the debates of this House. His Honor was not aware of what the course had formerly been, but supposed that the usual mode had been adopted.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY.—Last year the debates of this House were only published in one or two of the newspapers. I cannot see any objection to publishing them in pamphlet form, as was done formerly, and as the debates of the House of Assembly are still published.

Hon. Mr. BEER.—I am sorry to say that I take a different view of the case from that which is in pamphlet form. By so publishing them their circulation would necessarily be very limited, but by publishing them in the papers they would be more widely circulated in the country.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON.—They would be published in the papers too. In the course of a few years we may have to meet our constituencies again; we may then be charged with having said so and so, and we should have our debates to read, and that would be no more than we really did, or did not say.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I agree with his Honor who spoke last. I wish to be understood, I would as scrupulously oppose any unnecessary expenditure of the public money as any member of this House; but at the same time I will not consent to any retrograde movement, or diminish ourselves in

any way. I simply wish that we maintain our ground. I do not scruple as to the mode of publishing the debates; but I would have documentary proof of what we have said or done. I find that an opinion prevails, at least to some extent, that we are a body of no great importance. I would not, therefore, allow ourselves to be put to a lower; but I would endeavor to maintain that honorable position which we are entitled to hold.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD.—I think it is well to have the debates published, even if we have to expend a small sum for that purpose; because we may wish to refer to them in after years, and it is better to have them published for that purpose than a pamphlet. If they were published by the same person, and bound in the same pamphlet as the debates of the other House, I do not think it would cost much. I remember that a few years ago the debates of the House of Assembly were published in the papers, and I have seen them for that purpose than a pamphlet. If they were published by the same person, and bound in the same pamphlet as the debates of the other House, I do not think it would cost much. I remember that a few years ago the debates of the House of Assembly were published in the papers, and I have seen them for that purpose than a pamphlet.

Hon. Mr. BEER.—I will not oppose the publication of the debates in pamphlet form, as it appears to be the prevailing wish of the Representatives of the second District of Queen's County. I do not think it will be any great advantage to the public.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON.—If the House of Assembly do not complain of the cost of publishing their debates, I do not see why we should complain of the cost of publishing ours.

Hon. Mr. LORD.—The people in the House do not look at all to these small items; they look at the Revenue as a whole, and they find it almost in a state of bankruptcy.

Hon. Mr. WALKER.—On the first day of the Session a committee was appointed to be arranged for the publication of the debates; but as his Honor that Attorney General, who was a member of that committee, is now absent another might be appointed; it might then be decided in what form they would be published. If it is decided to have them published in pamphlet form, the papers might copy. I am aware that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction last Session about the debates. I believe only one paper, the Examiner, published them in full.

Hon. Mr. GOFF.—I think it is our duty to inform the public of the views of this House on public questions, and we should see that our debates are published in more than one paper. It would also be well to have them published in pamphlet form for reference.

It was then decided that the committee should receive tenders for printing the debates in pamphlet form; and the Hon. Mr. Beer was appointed a member of the committee additional.

His Honor the PRESIDENT presented to the House the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Lunatic Asylum.

Ordered, That the said Report do lie on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER. SIR: As the elections for the Assembly and Council are over, and the Liberal party have not made as much progress as was generally expected, I think that justice for every person that can put a few words of truth together to do so, in order to show that although the Liberal party were defeated, it was not by fair play, but by every evil device that could be thought of. For instance, in voting for the Assembly, if voters were allowed to vote according to their conscience, Mr. Wightman would have polled from 30 to 40 votes at Montague Bridge more than were polled for that gentleman last year. Again, at the election for the Council, a certain Overseer applied to Squire F— to get his statute labor receipts lawfully drawn up. Squire F— performed that duty accordingly, for out of twenty receipts he had only three which were only ordinary receipts. Of course Squire F— was an influential officer, and Mr. Wightman lost twenty-three votes on that occasion. A certain Hon—, holding property near Montague Bridge, applied to Squire F— for an ex officio order in that locality, and promised him five shillings if he would vote for their man in the third district. The innocent old man voted accordingly. There was a great deal of such conduct, and the consequence was, a few days after the poor Englishman was dubbed with the following language: "Well, Sir, what business had you to vote for a man who would give you five shillings?" Answer, "I never turn my back on a man." "Well, you will give your papers tonight; but mind, you will only hold the official I get time to write to town." A second instance was applied to obtain votes for the Council by the same gentleman, on this poor Englishman again. He wanted him to go to Dundas with him to convert a certain farm in that locality, whose name he would give him for his services. The man travelled night and day among a certain class of people to make votes for the Government party; and only the night before the election took place he called on Mr. Commissioner, and his Deputy held a meeting at Dundas Road, supplied every man with his deed, and told them they were then qualified to vote. It appeared that the favored crew thought they were no more fit to vote after receiving their deed, than before, and they were notwithstanding all the arguments that were driven into them by the two gentlemen. The officers were pane-struck. Midnight, Mr. Deputy, what can I do? Some of the snobs were not qualified to vote. His Reverence came, melting moments. Methinks, Mr. Editor, the night the prison doors were opened for Paul and Silas is not to be compared with this miserable night. No! no! Paul and Silas had no bad votes. But here was a change to be effected in a short space of time. The officers chanted, his Reverence performed his part, and in a little time, perhaps less than an hour, all is well. You will observe that these persons were residing on the same estate as the Dundas Road men, and as much entitled to their deeds, because they held Liberal views, received no deed. No, no! they will have to get them from the office to town, and pay for them.

Your correspondent, a Traveller, makes use of the name of a man named McIntosh, from Dundas's Road, as having pulled a bad vote. That it is a bad vote, you can see for yourself. For example, two years ago, McIntosh sold 50 acres of land, being the half of what he then owned, for £30, with all his buildings. The 50 acres he retained possession of, and he well improved as those which he sold; yet that man gave his vote, and swore he was worth £100! I heard an Englishman, who resides within two farms of the Commissioner of Public Lands, advising McIntosh not to vote, telling him he was by no means qualified—that all he owned was not worth £25! also advising a man named Thompson, who would have voted for Messrs. Wightman and McDonald, not to disgrace himself by voting when he was not qualified. Thompson did not do so. A few minutes after I saw the Commissioner pushing on McIntosh to vote, together with a man named Nicholson, whose qualification is on a par with McIntosh's. The two votes were secured. A few minutes doubt they will be struck out of the poll books, as are no worse than many others that were polled at Montague Bridge that day.

I remain yours, &c. LOOKER ON. King's County, Feb'y 26, 1863.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER. SIR: During the last four years the Conservatives, since the Tories, were in power, they did not, certainly, do much to improve the condition of the poor, but they were not so much in power as they were, they rather increased the almost insupportable burden by augmenting the colonial debt. Their only two courses, wholly in defiance of the views of the people, were to reduce the Teachers' salaries, and, finally, put rifles into the hands of the people, and induce them to lay aside their books, drop their literary institutions, and pay no

more attention to their intellectual cultivation! This, Mr. Editor, certainly appears to be the course of the present Government is pursuing. Let them go on; let them oppress every measure which will do any harm to the welfare of the Colony; but let them remember that a day of retribution will come, when they shall receive a just reward, when they shall be looked upon as the most rampant tyrants, and shall be punished accordingly. Yours, &c. COLONIST. York River, March 10th, '63.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER. SIR.— On perusing the *Islander* I observe a very ungentlemanly remark respecting the return of Mr. Andrew A. McDonald, that his election was secured by false swearing at Cardigan, &c. &c. Now, Sir, to reverse the accusation, the conduct at Montague Bridge was unpardonable. Report says, that the day previous to the election, Mr. Adams had his servant-mans going round Dundas's Road, knocking the purchasers of the Selkirk estate their deeds, and those that had not obtained them, the Land Commissioner, the morning of the election, took charge of the end of the Bridge, and I believe, with his pocket-book with which he belongs to the mileage, commission, and salary of the Land Office. It is scarcely to be wondered at the conduct of the Government had taken place, and to be obliged to take the plough or the axe in lieu of the pen, would have driven poor John from the country; and at the other end of the Bridge, the Hon. Mr. Yeo was writing the names of the purchasers of the Selkirk property to *his whites*, as the morning was cold, and they would be better able to speak as they would have to take the oath. The reply was— "I can swear, so well as anybody, she is worth a hundred pounds, and she'll swear any rag." I understand that one half the votes taken there are objected, and justly so. Let any impartial person be appointed to go round the district where these votes were taken, and he will find that the decision will be that one in ten cannot vote. So that if corruption was practised elsewhere, no place can surpass Montague Bridge in that line, the proof of which was evident to all bystanders.

I have heard at Sentosa's, Lot 63, that only for the strict investigation, the same game would have been practised. I have also heard that the man who was the *reversible* voted on nothing, only on the interest he obtained from selling mules to Dr. Hornbrook, the day of the election, to feed the Skyhooks. What must you suppose of this man, who changed his religion, changed his name, and changed his politics? This man was an officer on behalf of one of the candidates; and another, who is as great a gaik as there is on this Island, who had neither deed nor lease, swore to his qualification, because he was a Tory, the meaning of which was, nothing of only that he had supplied the Tories at the former election with half-baked cakes, in lieu of which, I hear, he is promised the appointment of J. P. We have heard of this man's vote. In conclusion, I must confess, if Andrew McDonald is deprived of his election, that the Tories are the best swearers.

Yours, &c. THE PRESIDENT. Montague Bridge, Feb. 15th, 1863.

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