THE EXAMINER:

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

Vol. X. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Tuesday, July 3, 1860. New Series.—No. 25

Literature.

MUSIC IN NATURE.

THERE is music in the sighing
Of the gentle summer breeze,
Like the voice of spirits dying
Far away among the trees;
And there's music in the rippling
Of the little village stream,
As its tiny waves are glistening
In the sunset's golden gleam.

There is music in the dashing
Of the waves upon the shore,
In the lightning's vivid flashing,
In the thunder's fearful roar;
In the torrent madly rushing,
By its headlong fury sped;
In the fountain gently gushing
From its low and mossy bed.

There's music in the wild bird's note,
So joyous, sweet, and clear;
There's music in the sounds that float,
Borne on the evening air;
Sounds of joy oft tinged with sadness,
Yielding pleasure yielding pain;
Sounds of sorrow, hope, and gladness,
In one sweet harmonious strain.

There's music in the noisy mirth
Of children at their play;
Sweet music ushers in the birth,
And cheers departing day.
In every voice its tones rebound,
And soulless must he be
Who hears not in each gladd'ning sound,
Sweet nature's melody.

THE AMBASSADOR'S BALL.

Among the persons of distinction who composed the highest society of Paris in 1810, none were more conspicuous than the Austrian Ambassador, Prince Carl von Schwartzenberg, and his family. The Prince himself, a handsome, stately man, dignified, yet popular and easy in his bearing, distinguished both in the council chamber and in the field, was a really imposing representative of his imperial master. Not less remarkable was his charming princess; a rare intelligence, grace, fascination, and sincere amiability, all combined to fit her for her brilliant position. The prince and princess held at their magnificent Hotel de Legation, Rue de Mont Blanc, a court—in all but its name and tedious ceremonials. Here French and Germans met on common ground, unfettered by the uneasiness, restraint, and smothered suspicion which darkened the atmosphere of St Cloud. Here, on the contrary, there seemed to be good will and friendliness for all—a moral sunshine in which even strangers came to bask. To those who were admitted to any degree of intimacy with the family, the source of the pervading light and warmth remained no secret. Beneath the splendours of the Hotel de Legation there flourished all the simple virtues of household affections. Husband and wife loved each other tenderly, as it was not the fashion for French husbands and wives to love in those days; a charming family was growing up about them; they had a circle of valued household friends. Prince Joseph von Schwartzenberg, the Ambassador's elder brother, had also taken up his residence in Paris. The brothers were deeply attached to each other; their children had the same masters, and lived like brothers and sisters together; each family shared and heightened the other's pleasures. No wonder that, amidst the false glitter of the Empire, this home-happiness—quiet, pure, and true—should have exercised a subtle charm on those who came within its influence.

Of all the festivities which had taken place in honour of the nuptials of Marie Louise, that of the Hotel de Legation was to be the crown. It was not considered simply as a ball given by the Ambassador; it was the fete of Austria herself in honour of a daughter of the House of Hapsburg. Every Austrian in Paris felt himself personally compromised in the success of his entertainment, which was to be on a scale of far greater magnificence than any which had preceded it. If Austria had been forced to lay down her arms on the field of Wagram, here at least France should confess herself vanquished. The fete was to take place on the 1st of July, and for weeks beforehand, an army of workmen were employed in the necessary preparations. As the time drew near, they worked in relays, day and night. Indeed, those whose turn fell in the night were more fortunate than their brethren, for the heat by day was intense; the paint blistered the wood-work, the stone-blocks glowed under that burning sun. Scarcely a drop of rain had fallen for weeks; the foliage withered in every direction, as if under the breath of a simoom; the turf and boughs required for decoration had to be kept fresh by artificial means. The hotel itself, it was thought, would not be large enough for the occasion, so the mansion next door to it was hired, and the two buildings thrown into one. But the grand ball-room, a palace in itself for size and magnificence, was erected of solid wood-work in the garden. Its roof and walls, covered on the outside with waxed-cloth, were decorated in the interior with tapestry, and all the resources of upholstery and taste expended in the arrangement of mirrors, candelabra, coloured lamps, and every kind of dazzling ornament. The roof, which was dome-shaped, was supported by wooden pillars covered with white satin damask, striped in gold and silver, and festooned with muslin, gauze, and other light fabrics, bound by wreaths of artificial flowers. Massive glass-lustres swung on gold and silver chains from the roof, and were combined in one graceful and harmonious whole with the other decorations, by means of floating draperies, flowers, and ribbons. At one end of this pavilion rose a dais, carpeted with cloth of gold, on which two throne-chairs were placed for the emperor and his bride; at the opposite end, was a gallery for the orchestra. There were three entrances to the ball-room besides that for the musicians at the back of the orchestra—one behind the dais, communicating with the mansion; another into a wide long gallery, temporary like the ball-room, and decorated to match it; this gallery ran parallel with the hotel, and had several doors communicating with it and with the gardens. But the principal entrance to the ball room was a magnificent portal, from which a flight of broad steps led down into the gardens, where every arrangement had been made to facilitate the ingress and egress of the crowd of guests. Over the portal shone in illuminated letters the following inscription, in German, which some friend of Prince Schwartzenberg, inspired evidently by the muse who presides over mottoes for crackers and bon bons, improvised for the occasion:

With gentle Beauty's charm is glorious Valour bound!
All hail! the golden age again on earth is found!

So rose the light graceful structure, as by the wand of some architectural Ariel: it looked, with its gold-worked tapestries, the bridal whiteness of the diaphonous draperies, the lustre and colour afforded by silver, gold, flowers, mirrors, chandeliers, and costly ornaments of every description, as if it had been transplanted out of the Thousand and One Nights. There was only one calamity to be dreaded: that long, low bank of cloud in which the sun had set on the last of June, looked ominous enough; what if the rain should pour down in torrents next day, as fete-givers and fete-goers know too well it seems to take a malicious pleasure in doing on such occasions? What would become of the ball-room and all its magnificence then? Fortunately, the 1st of July set all fear of such a provoking *contre-temps* at rest; the sun blazed out of a sky without a cloud. Every preparation was happily complete, and with the comfortable certainty that not the smallest detail had been overlooked which would add distinction to so grand a festivity, the Ambassador, his family, and friends betook themselves to the lighter cares of the toilet, not without congratulations among the younger Austrian officers on the superior brilliancy of their national uniform over that of their French rivals.

It was still broad daylight when the Hotel de Legation was illuminated, and already in quick, and still quicker succession, the carriages of the guests rolled between the crowd which lined the streets. A grenadier detachment of the Imperial Guard had betimes occupied the posts assigned them. The Austrian nobility were in readiness to receive the arrivals, and every lady was presented with a beautiful bouquet before being conducted to the ball-room, now rapidly filling. The rank and dignity of the guests increased with every minute; kings and queens had already been announced, and now there was a pause of expectancy. At length the word of command to the troops, then the roll of drums, the crash of military music, announced the approach of the imperial state carriage. The two families of Schwartzenberg and Metternich received the Emperor and Marie Louise. After a short congratulatory address from the Ambassador, and when the empress had accepted a bouquet from the princely ladies, her husband, taking her hand, conducted her to the ball-room. Many persons who had a near view of Napoleon for the first time, remarked the regular beauty of his features, but all were struck with the fixed, iron character of his face. His deportment was stern and unbending, almost that of a man in some fit of ill-humoured sullenness. Not a gleam of kindliness in the eye—its glance darting straight forward like that of an eagle on its prey; not even a forced smile played upon those inflexible lips, which seemed as if they could only open to utter some terrible command. Napoleon declined the refreshments offered, and promenaded with the empress through the reception rooms, galleries, and ball-room in an abstracted manner, negligently addressing a few words here and there, and casting quick sharp glances over the brilliant throng. They shrank almost visibly from his gaze. That stern dark presence spread an indefinable gloom over this grand festival; it was much like the appearance of some schoolmaster, infinitely more feared than loved, among a troop of children enjoying themselves at a puppet-show.

This feeling weighed upon the guests as they silently followed the imperial couple through the illuminated gardens. What was lacking in mirth, however, music did her best to supply, for bands, both instrumental and vocal, were stationed at different spots, who burst into choral songs and symphonies at the approach of the emperor. The Austrians had prepared a flattering surprise for Marie Louise. Seats placed upon a lawn invited Napoleon and herself to rest; and here an exact model of the familiar castle of Saxenberg, brilliantly illuminated presented itself to her eyes; while there emerged from the shrubberies a troop of opera-dancers in the costume of Austrian peasants, who went through the national dances of her country. Then followed a pantomimic war and peace where Mars displayed nothing more formidable than the honours of victory, and Peace came attended by every image of happiness and prosperity. This was hardly over when a great flourish of trumpets announced the arrival of a courier, who, booted, spurred, and covered with dust, presented his dispatches to the emperor. A murmur of some conquest in Spain ran through the assembly, but Napoleon, who was in the secret, proclaimed the correspondence to be from Vienna, and presented the empress with a *bona fide* letter from her father, written purposely to grace this occasion. After a display of fireworks, the company returned to the grand ball-room, and the emperor having paused at the portal to spell out the meaning of the German Alexandrines, took his place with his bride on the dais, and the orchestra struck up.

The ball was opened by the queen of Naples with Prince Esterhazy and Eugene, viceroy of Italy, with the Princess Schwartzenberg. While the dancing was going on, the imperial couple promenaded the room in opposite directions, conversed slightly with different persons, and gave an opportunity for the presentation of strangers, and those younger members of French and Austrian nobility who made their debut into society at this grand fete. Marie Louise soon resumed her seat, but Napoleon remained at the other end of the pavilion, conversing first with one, then with another. The Princess Schwartzenberg presented her young daughters to him, and received his compliments on the magnificence of the arrangements. The princess felt while she listened to them that all anxieties and fears with regard to the entertainment might now fairly be laid aside; never could ball-room present a more brilliant spectacle, never could fete promise a grander success. The hearts of both host and hostess grew light as they saw Napoleon in the best possible humour, evidently bent upon being polite after his fashion. It was now past midnight; the revelry was at its height; the whirl of the dance had completely broken the *gene* of the great conqueror's presence. Dukes and duchesses, princes and princesses, kings and queens, were all enjoying themselves like ordinary mortals. There were silvery laughter, sweet low voices, and glances still more sweet and eloquent; plenty of whispering and flirtation going on under cover of the music, especially in the less thronged galleries among the younger portion of the assembly. Tittled ladies, and bestarred and beribboned gentlemen, verging upon fifty, but successfully got up to seem twenty years younger, were looking forward with gentle anticipation to the supper, lying in a state of gold and silver in a suite of banqueting-rooms. Some of the guests were proud of their jewels, their wit, or their grace; some women were proud of their own beauty, others of the beauty of their daughters; but not an Austrian present was there who was not proud of the ball; and well they might be. Under those snowy draperies the light fell full and brilliant on such an assemblage as Paris has hardly gathered since; jewels flashed, plumes waved, decorations glittered, to be multiplied infinitely in countless mirrors—the magnificent pavilion showed like one vast restless sea of splendour. Vague forebodings are rife in the minds of men, but why should they enter here? what room here for a thought of broken faith—a sigh for the cast-off wife at Malmaison—why should a dark fancy see in the cold shrinking girl on the dais an image of Higenia at the altar? Away with all ill-timed fancies! The orchestra strikes up a waltz; gayer, louder is the music; quicker, and still more quick the measure of the dance.

There is a slight stir at that end of the ball-room where Napoleon is standing; the mere-t trifle—the flame from one of the lamps has laid hold of a gauze festoon. The light harmless-looking blaze has vanished instantly; a few flakes fall, which Count Bentheim extinguishes with his hat. It is quite over now—no, not quite; that is fire creeping there along that drapery overhead. Quick as thought, Count Domanion, one of the emperor's chamberlains, climbs a pillar, tears it down, and crushes out the flames in a moment. But look there—higher than any one can reach, what are those fiery tongues darting out from the fluted muslin straight over the orchestra? The music was hushed at once; the band hurrying to escape by the door leading into the gardens, at the back of the orchestra, gave free passage to the night air. A rising wind blew very freshly in, and fanned the flames into instant fury. Wave after wave of fire surged over the whole roof; burning fragments were falling everywhere on the light draperies below and the ladies' dresses. The emperor had at once made his way to the dais; some of his attendants, bewildered by the sudden alarm, suspected treachery, and pressed closely around him, their drawn swords in their hands. He himself was perfectly calm and composed; attended by the ambassador, with the empress on his arm, he left the pavilion with no more haste than he had entered it, exhorting the crowd, as he passed along, to keep order. On the first alarm, Prince Schwartzenberg had despatched an adjutant to order the imperial carriage to a private gate into the gardens near at hand; but Napoleon, when this was nearly reached, turned suddenly round, and refused in the most peremptory manner to leave by any but the principal entrance. His decision was no doubt formed under the idea that if this accident were connected with a design upon his life, the narrowness and seclusion of the by-street into which the other gateway opened would favour the plans of conspirators. The carriage had to be ordered back, and thus a cruel delay arose, for Prince Schwartzenberg, waiting with death in his heart beside Napoleon, who remained silent and unmoved, the empress trembling on his arm, the din of that dreadful tumult in their ears, the glare of the conflagration increasing every moment. Not more than one minute had passed between the first alarm and the emperor's departure, yet the flames had spread with such frightful rapidity that it was already impossible to save the ball-room. Tolerable composure had been hitherto maintained, but the restraint of Napoleon's presence withdrawn, every consideration gave way, and in agony and violence the tumultuous multitude pressed towards the doors.

One of the German guests thus describes the scene: "I had escaped," he says, "from the oppression and heat of the ball-room into the gallery, which was far less crowded. On a sudden, wild shrieks and tumult rose. Rushing back to the pavilion, I saw the roof one mass of quivering flames, leaping and spreading in every direction. There was no time, however, to look on; a surging crowd drove me back with them into the hotel. I disengaged myself from them, and regained the scene of the accident through the gardens. The immense pavilion was now in a universal blaze; the flames actually seemed to pursue the stream of fugitives. Heavy lustres were falling; planks, boards, and beams dashed burning together. The wood-work, exposed as it had been to the sun, the paint and draperies, were burning like fireworks, and all the water poured on from the fire-engines seemed to have no effect whatever upon the fury of the flames. While I stood looking on for a few seconds, they darted high above the roof of the gallery; heavy beams were falling close behind me, and I was obliged to escape while there was yet time into the gardens. Never can I forget the spectacle there presented, that dreadful confusion of personal danger, fear, and agony. Some were rushing about, their light dresses on fire; others had been thrown down and trampled under foot. Husbands were seeking their wives, mothers crying frantically for their daughters; groans of suffering, shrieks of terror, the cries of those who threw themselves with passionate joy into each other's arms, the wail of agony, the heart-rending appeals for help; all mingled in a horrible diapason." Many persons were severely injured by the flight of steps from the principal entrance giving way suddenly. The queens of Naples and Westphalia were both thrown down, and narrowly escaped being trampled to death. The Russian ambassador, Prince Kurakin, was rescued with great difficulty by his friends; other hands, less friendly, cut all the diamond buttons off his coat. Every distinction of rank was suddenly levelled in that assembly; stars, ribbons, nay, majesty itself, were jostled by servants, soldiers, and workmen; the firemen, half intoxicated, pushed their way through the crowd; royal ladies were elbowed by musicians and opera-dancers; and as a back-ground to this scene of confusion, rose higher, fiercer, more general every moment, the terrible conflagration, paling and mocking the illuminations of the gardens. The hotel itself had now caught fire; the alarm had spread everywhere; and the streets were thronged with people crying out that half Paris would be burned down.

The saddest part of the story remains still to be told. When the fire broke out, Prince Joseph von Schwartzenberg was standing in conversation with the empress. His first care was for his wife, the Princess Pauline, whom he had left only a few minutes before in another part of the room. He searched the ball-room for her in vain, and was assured by several persons that she was already in the gardens; there many people declared they had seen her carried, fainting, indeed, but otherwise uninjured, into the hotel. Prince Joseph eagerly repaired thither, but only to find a lady, a perfect stranger to him, who remarkably resembled his princess. Hurrying back in an agony, his daughter, frightfully burnt, was brought to him; the princess had gained the garden in safety, but returned for her child; they were escaping together, when a mass of blazing wood-work fell, and separated them. This was all the poor girl had to tell. At this moment, the torturing presentiment which had laid hold of the unhappy husband passed through every degree, and certainty flashed upon his mind with a light more fearful than that of the conflagration. As he approached the pavilion, his eye fell upon an ominous sight—the Princess von Leyen, her rich dress hanging in fragments, the diadem she had worn burnt deeply into her forehead. She had only been rescued from the flames to linger a few days in suffering; and, alas! those who had brought her out told that they had seen a figure in the midst of the fire whom it was impossible to save. On hearing these words, Prince Joseph broke away from his friends, and would have rushed up the burning steps, when floor and ceiling crashed into one ruin, volumes of raging fire and smoke poured forth, and—all was over.

So swift had been the destroyer in its work, that hardly a quarter of an hour had elapsed between the accident, seemingly so slight, to the gauze festoon, and this final act of the tragedy. For one minute, this awful spectacle suspended the restless agony of the crowd, and while they stood stupified before it, the emperor, in his well known grey coat, suddenly reappeared among them. Under his orders, the strangers presently withdrew without confusion; every entrance to the ground was guarded by soldiers; the important contents of the archive room, on which the fire had seized, were conveyed into a place of safety. Napoleon himself directed the efforts made for extinguishing the fire, and the search for the missing Princess Pauline von Schwartzenberg. This was entirely unsuccessful; not a clue could be obtained to her fate, though every house in the vicinity and those of all her friends were visited, and the smouldering ruins carefully searched. Prince Joseph hovered about, appearing now in the gardens, now in the different apartments, ready to sink from exhaustion, yet roused into activity through his restless anguish. Even Napoleon found pity for the unhappy man; he joined his friends in trying to persuade him to withdraw, and addressed a few words of encouragement and hope to him from time to time. But the presence and words of the emperor made no impression on his stubborn despair; he had no ear save for the death-cry in his heart, and for the reports—always the same—of the messengers sent hither and thither on their hopeless quest.

Not till the fire had been well got under did Napoleon return to St Cloud. He left behind him a thousand soldiers of the Imperial Guard, who bivouacked there for the night, and sat down to the sumptuous banquet prepared for very different guests. As if no element of horror were to be wanting, towards the morning a fearful thunder-storm broke over the smoking ruins. The rain now fell in torrents, and served to extinguish the fire completely. Where the sun had set on that palace ball-room, he now rose over a hideous heap of ruins, charred beams, shattered masonry, broken furniture, mirrors, and porcelain; every chance hollow was a pool of stagnant water. Fragments of lustres, swords, bracelets, and other ornaments lay fused together in masses. Nor was this all: under a pile of half burned wood-work, a corpse was discovered, blackened and shrivelled almost out of human form. It could only be identified as that of the missing princess by a jewelled necklace, on which the names of her eight children were engraved; a ninth, yet unborn, perished with the ill-fated wife and mother. At this saddest of all sights, every voice was hushed; tears stood in the eyes of all, even in those of the soldiers; and at the moment, the last thunders of the storm, two heavy claps, rolled solemnly overhead.

Dismal days succeeded the catastrophe. A universal gloom overspread Paris. There were dark whispers of conspiracy, incendiarism—reports that the enemies of Napoleon had resolved by one bold stroke to rid themselves of the obnoxious ruler, his family, and his devoted friends. The obsequies of the Princess Pauline von Schwartzenberg were followed by those of the Princess von Leyen, and of several ladies of high rank, who died in consequence of injuries received. More than twenty persons lost their lives; the number of those more or less hurt was upwards of sixty. The deep and unwholesome impression produced on the public mind was unmistakable, an impression which resisted every effort made in high quarters to suppress and divert it. To the bulk of the people, Napoleon's divorce and subsequent marriage had been extremely distasteful; and this, not only because Josephine was universally beloved, but that a superstitious belief had arisen—shared in some degree by her husband himself—that her presence was the good genius of his fortunes. Already there was a vague but popular prediction extant, that the dowry of an Austrian Archduchess would be bitter misfortunes for France and its chief; and now the memory of the terrible disaster attendant on the nuptials of Marie Antoinette, aunt to the empress, with the Dauphin, was revived, and the present calamity considered a fresh proof that fate had a fearful warning in store for every alliance of France with the House of Hapsburg. When, within a few years, the divorcee of Josephine was discrowned and forsaken, many prophets, wise after the event, beheld in this fatal festival an omen of the downfall of the imperial fortunes.

THE KEY TO THE WEATHER.—A letter of M. Connick to the *Courrier des Halles* is exciting great attention in France. It will be remembered that Marshal Bugeaud proclaimed the discovery of an ancient manuscript, in which the laws which govern the atmosphere were so clearly laid down that nothing was left to chance and projects could be made with the greatest security. These calculations, based upon 50 years' experience, comprising 600 revolutions of the moon, had enabled the author to foretel the weather to a nicety, and the Marshal struck by the confidence with which the theory was broached, after taking some little trouble to practise the same rule of calculation, found it unerring likewise. M. de Connick now comes forward with his experience also, and at length we can boast of possessing a key to the pranks of the moon, which will henceforth render them completely harmless. This it is: The weather, eleven times out of twelve, is exactly the same during the whole moon as on the fifth day; if on the sixth day it resembles the fifth; and nine times out of twelve it is exactly the same as the fourth day if the sixth day resembles the fourth. This rule, says M. de Conninck, is found invariably eight months in the year. The exceptions have hitherto been October, February, March, and April.

A CHINESE GENTLEMAN'S HOUSE.—The commercial connections between China and Japan and this country, which must become stronger and more numerous in future years, are awakening a peculiar interest in the manner and habits of these secluded people. Our readers will be pleased with an introduction to the house of a Chinese gentleman:

He first took us to his country house, now uninhabited. It was the perfect residence of a Chinese gentleman. There was a very large garden, with bamboo hedges and large fish tanks, edged with walls of blue bricks and perforated tiles. His pigs were in admirable condition, and as beautifully kept as the Prince Consort's at Windsor. About the grounds were nutmegs, mangosteens, plantains, cocoa nuts, dariens, and small creepers trained into baskets and pagodas. Inside the house, the drawing-rooms had doors sliding across circular openings. We then went on to this good gentleman's private residence, entering by a Chinese triumphal gate. He tells me he has ten miles of carriage road round his estate. It is on a fine undulating tract of land, reclaimed from the jungle, and laid out with rare taste. In the outskirts a tiger killed a man the other day. In his garden I found Jacko, living in a cane cage, next door to a porcupine; there were also some rare birds. Further on some very small Brahman bulls, and a Cashmere goat, and a family of young Kangaroos. There were all sorts of unknown beautiful flowers placed about in enormous China vases.

Here I first saw the tea plant growing. It is of the camelia tribe, three or four feet high, and bears a small white flower, like the opening dog-rose; also I was shown the "moon-flower," a kind of rounded convolvulus, that only opens at night. There was a bower of "monkey-cups"—the pitcher flower, which collects water, and from which Jacko refreshes himself in the jungles. The fan palm—a beautiful tree on the lawn—produced water of clear cold quality, by being pierced with a penknife. Several minute creepers were trained over wire forms, to imitate dragons, with egg-shells for their eyes; and there were many of the celebrated dwarf-trees—the first I had seen—little oaks and elms about eighteen inches high, like small withered old men. The house here was superbly furnished in the English style, but with lanterns all about it. At 6 o'clock the guests arrived—mostly English—all dressed in short white jackets and trousers. The dinner was admirably served in good London style, and all the appointments, as regarded plate, glass, wines and dishes, perfect. The quiet attentive waiting of the little China boys deserve all praise. After dinner we lounged through the rooms, decorated with English prints of the Royal Family, statuettes, "*curios*," from every part of the world, and rare objects in jade stone and crackle China; a portrait of our host's son, who is being educated in Edinburgh. He was in English dress.—*Albert Smith's "To China and Back."*

THE SORROWS OF THE JAPANESE.—The gentlemen from Japan, if we may believe the "press gang" who follow in their footsteps, will have a very vivid idea of the customs of the country by the time they have got through the principal cities of the Union. In Baltimore they were forced to ride all over the city, called 'niggers,' and hustled about in a most democratic manner by the people, while a portion of the military escort, after reaching the hotel where the Embassy was quartered, had a pleasant fight with knives and pistols in the rotunda of the hotel. In addition to these delicate complimentary attentions, when the steam fire engines were brought out in front of the hotel for the purpose of exhibiting their powers to the subjects of the Tycoon, a party of firemen, with scaling ladders, mounted to the balcony where the Japanese were standing, and, bringing their hose with them, invited some of the Embassy to take hold. This brought out some of the under officers, and among them Tommy, who, "played away" for a time with much glee. But this did not satisfy the bold flame quenchers. What they wanted was a turn with the Japanese nobility, and nothing else would do. At last one of them was introduced to the Embassador, and immediately gave characteristic expression to his feelings by pulling off his wet and heavy hat and clapping it upon the head of his new acquaintance. This bit of jocosity took so well among the Baltimore gentlemen, that similar pleasantries were straightway indulged in, and the last glimpse caught of Simmi, Prince of Boojsen, revealed him struggling beneath a military cap which some creature had shoved over his eyes and pressed tightly down.

So passed the afternoon, and in the evening, when the fire works were discharged, the same confusion, and the same disregard of the feelings of the Japanies were shown.

A JAPANESE DESPATCH HOME.—The Philadelphia *Inquirer* is responsible for the following, which the Japanese may have sent to their master the Emperor.

"We find it very difficult to comply with the demands of our sovereign, forbidding us to touch the women of this country. Not from any disposition on our part to disobey, but from their desire to seize us by our hands. They are apparently allowed here the greatest freedom, but it is only in appearance. Every woman, married and single, is fastened in a cage of bamboo or flexible steel, extending from the waist to the feet. This seems to be so arranged as to give them no uneasiness, but they are very much ashamed of it, and conceil it under so many coverings that it renders their appearance quite ludicrous. They are unrestricted as to the upper part of their persons, which they are permitted to expose as much as they wish. This they seem to avail themselves of, and on occasions of high ceremony wear very low dresses. As in all barbarous nations, they slit their ears and suspend from them ornaments of gold and silver."

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

[ELECTION LAWS.

WEDNESDAY, April 11, 1860.

The Order of the day for the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Act to repeal certain parts of the Act consolidating the Election Laws, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof," having been read,—

His Honor Mr. PALMER in moving that the House go into the Order of the day, explained that the Bill was intended to make some alteration in the system of the Election Laws, with the view of ameliorating—so far as the system was susceptible of the improvement,—many things which, since the last alteration therein, experience had shown were imperatively called for, in order, so far as possible, to secure the purity of election. The Bill did not propose any alteration in the principles of the established system of the Election Laws; but was intended solely to secure a more faithful exercise of those principles, and to provide for their being carried out in such a manner as would most effectually preclude the practices of fraud and corruption. It was a notorious fact that, at nearly every election which had taken place since the extension of the elective franchise,—an extension little short of universal suffrage,—many unscrupulous and worthless individuals had presumed to exercise it contrary to the provisions of the Law, and sometimes not in one district or in one polling division only, but in two. The registration system had been devised to obviate such fraudulent practices; and where it was in operation, it had been found to be a very effectual safeguard of the purity of elections; but, under existing circumstances, it would be impossible to establish it in Prince Edward Island. What could be done, however, towards the attainment of the object of registration, was provided for in the Bill. The individuals who had presumed to exercise the elective franchise in violation of the Election Laws belonged, almost exclusively, to that class who, having no property qualification, claim to exercise it in right of their inability to perform statute labor on the highways. To prevent such violation of the laws, the Bill provided a very simple and inexpensive remedy. It was merely that, at all elections every individual claiming to vote on the statute labor qualification, should at the time he came forward to exercise it, produce a certificate from the road overseer of his district, stating that he had either actually performed his statute labor or paid the commutation money instead thereof. A provision in the amended Statute Labor Act provided for that requirement of the Bill, making it compulsory on the road overseers to grant such certificates. By this means, voters who have no property qualification will be confined to their proper district, and prevented from voting more than once; the certificate would, by extinguishing all doubts, satisfy the returning officer, and prevent all temptations to swearing falsely. By another provision of the Bill, a constituency was to be changed, or rather its representatives were to be removed to another district. That provision, however, was not in the original scheme, but was introduced whilst the Bill was in Committee in the other House, and finally made a part of it. It was, that Princetown and Royalty and Lot 18 should no longer have the privilege of returning two members to the House of Assembly, but that privilege should be transferred to the central spot of business of the County; that was, to Lot 17, on which is situated the rising town of Summerside, possessing the advantages of an excellent harbor, from whence the chief trade between the Island and the Province of New Brunswick was carried on. To that town, with the township on which it was situated, which also included St. Eleanor's, with the County Court House and jail. Ever since he had been in the Legislature, Princetown had been alluded to as possessing too great a share in the representation, and the Election Laws had never been revised without its being threatened with disfranchisement. The town, at the time it was projected, was laid off with anticipations which had never been and never would be realized. What was called Princetown was, in fact, no town at all; and the decision of the House of Assembly with respect to it was, therefore, a perfectly just one. The reasons which had induced the House of Assembly to agree to that alteration in the representation were sustained by petitions most numerously and respectably signed; and he could see no reason whatever why their Honors should not concur with them therein. Summerside was, in every respect, so situated, and possessed such advantages for the strengthening and encouraging the trade which ought to be kept up between the Island and New Brunswick and the United States, that, in his opinion, on no grounds whatever, could the wisdom or policy of the decision of the House of Assembly with respect to it be justly impugned or called in question, but called for the warm and hearty support of their Honors. That was the only deviation in principle from the established system. The other provisions of the Bill had all been framed for the sole purpose of securing the faithful operation of the Election Laws; but, should they become law, they would be productive of another very beneficial effect,—the ensuring to the country of a more strict and regular performance of statute labor. His Honor then concluded by moving that the Bill be read a second time.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON seconded the motion; and in doing so, briefly pursued, with respect to the precautionary provisions of the Bill, the same course of argument, in their favor, which had been gone over by the Hon. Mr. Palmer.

Hon Col. SWABEY did not rise to oppose the second reading of the Bill; but he would just observe, that he thought different matters were strangely, if not very improperly, mixed up in it; and indeed, from his own statement respecting it, His Honor who had just moved the second reading seemed to be of the same opinion. He did not then intend to enter into the details of the Bill, but he would simply further observe that it seemed to him their operation would have the effect, as respected many individuals, particularly such as were in the habit of going to sea, of most unjustly withholding from them the privilege of exercising the elective franchise; for they would generally be absent from the Island at the season of performing the statute labor. The consequence of the Bill, should it, as it stood, become law, would be wide and sweeping; and such alterations as were proposed by it should not be agreed to without the guidance of the greatest caution.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON—Were the Registration system in force in the Island, there would be no security for the Bill, so far as it was intended to prevent improper voting at elections; but, as that was not the case, all its precautionary provisions were merely a necessary substitute for that system. At elections no one ought to be allowed to vote without a legal qualification; and such a law as merely required that, before any one not possessing a property qualification, but claiming a right to vote, should be allowed to do so, he should be required to prove or produce his qualification, would not be either hard or unjust.

Hon. Mr. CRASWELL,—after having, in the first place, most strongly expressed his dissent from that portion of the Bill which provides for the transfer of the right of direct representation from Princetown and Royalty, (as formerly exercised,) to Summerside, St. Eleanor's, and Lot 17,—plainly indicating it to be his belief that the scheme for the proposed alteration had not so much originated in any honest desire for an equalization of parliamentary representation, as in an overweening eagerness, on the part of certain individuals, to increase their political influence, with a view to their own immediate benefit,—proceeded unsparingly to condemn the precautionary provisions of the Bill, which require, from all such electors as claim to vote on their liability to perform Statute Labor, the production of certificates signed by the Overseers of the Road, to the effect that parties claiming to vote have actually performed Statute Labor, or paid commutation money in lieu thereof. The Road Overseers, His Honor maintained, had power enough, independent of any such provision. They could compel the performance of the labor; or, in case of default, they could cause the defaulter to be fined. But, as the Bill was framed, with respect to Statute Labor, it would, should it become law, put into the hands of the dominant party, or Government, a lever by which to favor their own partizans and effect injustice to their opponents. He had seen so much of such kind of work, that he hesitated not to say that it was a provision expressly calculated to cause gross corruption, by placing power in the hands of a certain class of the community, for whose fair and proper exercise of it no satisfactory guarantee or assurance could be given under any Government.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON said that if Princetown had not become a place of so much importance as, at the time when a site for it was originally laid off, it was calculated it would become, the non-realization of such calculation had not been so much owing to the want of natural capabilities in the site, for the capital of the County, as to the exertions of certain individuals who, to enhance the value of their own property, had succeeded in procuring the County Court House and jail to be erected at St. Eleanor's instead of at Princetown. Those individuals, Messrs. Pope, Green, and Compton, had, by that means, enhanced the value of their own private properties, and at the same time effectually retarded the progress of both public and private improvements at Princetown. The same motives of self, not public interest, operating in the mind of a son of