

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, April 6.

Mr. Cooper said, he would beg leave to call the attention of the house to a subject of the highest importance. I believe it to be my duty, and the duty of this house, to take notice of any design which may be formed by any man or party of men, against the rights and liberties of His Majesty's subjects in this Island, and according to this last despatch of the 27th Jan., which has been laid on our table from Lord Viscount Goderich: I say there is a dangerous design of a party to deprive the inhabitants of this Island of their labour, which will sow the seeds of discord and dissipation, if not prevented by the most prompt measures of this house. To illustrate the statements which I have to make, I beg leave to refer to His Majesty's intentions, declared to all his people as is set forth in his speech at the opening of the British Parliament; and I would direct your attention to that part of it, which is addressed to both branches of the British senate in these words, "*And it will be your anxious but grateful duty to promote by all practicable means, habits of industry and good order amongst the laboring classes of the community,—and on my part I shall be ready to co-operate to the utmost of my power in obviating all just causes of complaint, and in promoting all well-considered measures of improvement.*" Sir, this part of His Majesty's speech must be to all his people, and as this Island is an integral part of the British empire, we have a right to follow this course pointed out by his Majesty, as if it had been given in charge to us alone; and it is in perfect accordance with our proceedings since last session, but we have acted our part with so much apathy as if it were dragged through our teeth against our inclination. It is well known the manner in which this Island was originally granted, has always been complained of, as it enabled the new grantees to combine against the labouring class, to deprive them of their labour; and they have taken the advantage of their power to the utmost extent by raising the rents of wilderness lands to a sum which it is impossible to pay, and shortening the terms of leases, so as to have in a short period of time, the whole labour of the industrious class of the colonists. Is this the encouragement for labour recommended in His Majesty's speech? but this is not all, and to show the confidence the few grantees who hold possession of the whole Island, and knew the whole was subject to forfeiture for non-settlement—yet I say, to shew their confidence in misrepresentation, or to corruption with His Majesty's Ministers, they continue to uphold the price of land, so that few or none can become purchasers, which prevents the settlement of the Colony. From those causes which I have stated, and which have been long continu-

ed, it is known to this house and the inhabitants generally, that the greater portion of the lands are still liable to forfeiture. To remedy those long complained-of evils—to settle the wilderness lands—to relieve the mother country of the burthen of our civil list—and to enable His Majesty to do justice to his subjects, according to his own words to secure the benefit of their own labour to the industrious, who have through every privation and difficulty brought this Island from its forest and wilderness state to its present improvement. A bill to establish a Court of Escheat, was passed last session; but instead of granting an encouragement for labor and industry as is recommended in His Majesty's speech, I refer to the despatches of His Majesty's Minister, Lord Viscount Goderich, in answer to our proceedings: the first despatch is well known to the country, and the latter now before us brings this information, that for a pittance of quit rent about 4d. 3-4ths per acre, this Island and His Majesty's subjects are to be sold as vassals with all their labor to those land jobbers, who have practised every deceit to impose on His Majesty's ministers, and daily oppress the most industrious class of His Majesty's subjects in this Island.—Is this the encouragement recommended by His Majesty for labour and industry? is His Majesty's intentions as declared to the British Parliament, to pass for a song? will not His Majesty's Ministers be taught a lesson, by the distress and disturbance in the Island?—For it is not as O'Connell would point out with all his eloquence, that a separation of the union would cure the distress of an oppressed and starving population, nor as Stanley with all his arguments for a military force and martial law, it is true he may smother or crush the complaints of the people of Ireland for a short time with bullets and bayonets, but can never cure it by these means. The complaints of Ireland and this Island are of the same nature, the greater portion of the lands are held by a few, and of that few many are absent from the country, and people they ought to support and cherish, and who instead of giving employment and encouragement for industry as recommended by His Majesty, will refuse employment to those who are ready and willing to labour, and will strip those whom they do employ of the greater portion of their earnings, and starve the inhabitants of a whole country. Then, who are the aggressors?—those who from their possessions ought to give employment and bread to the industrious? or those who are driven from want of an employment, either to starve or plunder in the country which gave them birth. It is acknowledged by the learned of all ages, that laws are only the arbitrary will of the majority of the people, and consequently will always require the majority of the

people to support and defend them; they will prove that the majority of mankind must have an interest in the soil, and without that, skins of written parchment and patches of wax, can give no title to the land to enslave and starve the many. I would therefore move to prevent trouble and anarchy in our Island.

That another address be prepared setting forth the true state of the settlement of this Island, and a person be nominated to carry the same to His Majesty, and that the House do come to the resolution to provide the means to carry the same into effect. (The mover looked around for some one to second his motion, which was at last seconded by Mr. H. McDonald.)

Mr. Pope said, he was surprised to hear such an inflammatory address, and should be sorry to see the like made public. It is such speeches and writings that has produced the present state of excitement which is now become dangerous to the peace of the country, as he (Mr. Pope) has learned lately, that the Sheriff had applied for troops to carry the law into effect; and such language as he had heard from the honorable member from King's County might produce an open rebellion. He (Mr. Pope) preferred the mildest course and would move an amendment.—That a Committee be appointed to prepare an address to His Majesty on the substance of the civil list, which would ultimately answer the end of an escheat, which was suggested by 3 or 4 at once.

Mr. Cooper said, he could not desire a better proof of the worth of what he advanced than the remarks of the honorable member for Prince County, if the people receive justice at the hands of Government, there can be no danger to let them know it. But when Government will suffer acts of injustice and oppression on the people, it is only then it becomes dangerous that the people should be informed of it. The security of a bad state of Government rests entirely in the ignorance of the people.

Mr. Compton spoke at considerable length on the evil tendency of Mr. Cooper's address, and said, the people were satisfied and contented before the inflammatory writings about an escheat. Mr. Cooper withdrew his motion, and Mr. Pope's motion was carried without a division.

— PRO AND CON; OR, THE PLUM.

(From a few pleasant pages published at Cambridge entitled *Fits of Folly; or, The Aberrations of a Philosopher.*)

TUNE.

"Come let's hear no more!

Sure I told you before

I know the full length of my tether, my tether," &c.

Love in a Village

"My sweetest mamma—
The monster! Oh! la!