

ROME, PAST AND PRESENT.

A LECTURE.

Delivered in St. Dunstan's Cathedral in Charlottetown, P. E. Island, in aid of the Funds of the Irish Volunteers, on Thursday evening, 16th August, 1860.

BY THE RIGHT REV. DR. NULLOCK, BISHOP OF ST. JOHN'S, N. F.

(Concluded.)

The administration of justice, I acknowledge, labours under one defect. As far as I could learn, it is too merciful. Trials are too long; it is said; but, after all, mercy is an error on the right side, though I think it better for society that justice should be sharp and quick. Political offences, including high treason, are, I may say, never punished with death in the Papal States; and if the Mazzinians were not religiously protected by governments, who, by this system of fostering rebellion, are working out their own speedy ruin, and if they were not assured of an amnesty, if defeated, but had to pay the penalty of their treason with their lives, as is invariably the case in England—witness Ireland and India—there would be less revolution, and honest men could sleep in peace. However, we must now pass through the crisis. I say we, for once this revolutionary epidemic attacks one or two nations, like the cholera it soon to spread; and it is only a question of time how soon the seed we are sowing will germinate.

Whatever defects there may be in the Roman Government, there is no doubt but that if the Pope and his people were left to themselves, they would be eliminated; but the interference of foreign powers, and the encouragement given to revolutionists, paralyse the Pope in the power of ameliorating the condition of his people. However, I have never heard of any formal grievance put forward by the Pope's enemies. We hear of no tithe question—no land question—no Irish question—no Lome or Indian question. A sickly sentimentalism—a union of all Italy to become what it never can be in the present state of the world—a first-rate power—this is all they require or complain of. The millions are happy and contented, or have been so, till they fell under the dagger government of the Mazzinians—men who allow no opposition under pain of assassination. The hundreds of bridges, barriers, unfeared doctors, and the idle and beggarly actions of a debased and decayed nobility—these are the agitators; and the mobs of the great cities—these are their abettors.

Remember, also, that the Pope has no Galicians where the adventurous may push their fortunes—no grand army to absorb a large portion of the idle population at the expense of the industrious—no penal Colonies to banish his convicts to, who, therefore, must be discharged once more on society when their time of imprisonment has expired, and you may see that there are difficulties to contend with that we have no idea of.

I have now given you a rapid sketch of the advantages of the Papal Government, and the weak points of it also. Any impartial man—with a knowledge of the governments of Europe, with their heavy taxes, conscriptions, continual press prosecutions, personal restraints, and all other peculiar trammels, which, perhaps, England can at present dispense with, being protected from foreign invasion by the sea, and having to deal with an unarmed populace—will, I am sure, prefer the paternal government of the Pope, whose defect is want of energy, while the others exhibit too much of it in regard to their own subjects.

Leaving on one side the spiritual power of the Pope, which, as given by Christ to St. Peter and his successors to the end of time, we know, as an article of faith, cannot be interfered with—I have not the least doubt of the permanency of his temporal power, and speedy reoccupation of those provinces which have been temporarily occupied by the King of Sardinia—one of the most vicious and morally degraded men who ever disgraced a crown. This is not the place to speak of that man's character, and I would blush to relate before the audience even a part of what I have heard years ago from his own subjects regarding him.

But the people of the Romagna—cowards as they are, or they would not let themselves be trampled on by adventurers from other provinces—will at last rise up against their oppressors. Their taxes are more than doubled—conscription, unknown before, is introduced—their holiest feelings are insulted—their clergy imprisoned and fined. Such is Sardinian liberty, because they will not insult God by praising Him for the success of their revolutionary scoundrel Marquis! Surely, if the very worst will turn when told on, the Romagnoles will, unless they have lost all manly spirit, rise against their tyrant.

But I will tell you the curse of Italy, want of self-reliance; always looking to others, the French or the English, to assist them.

It is a remarkable fact which we can trace through the whole course of history, that all who have opposed, oppressed or injured the Pope have been made examples of God's vengeance even in this world. What became of the Emperors of ancient Rome, the first persecutors of the Church? All perished in some dreadful way. Where are the Hohenstaufens of Germany—that race of emperors who always opposed and opposed the Popes? Their kingdom passed away—they withered under the blight of the Papal malediction, and history has fewer, sadder pages than those which record the fate of these German Cæsars. See the Bourbons—the defenders of the Church for ages—led on by the false glare of what is called modern philosophy—they mortified the Popes, and see their fate in the great Revolution and the subsequent ones. But let us come down to the most modern instance, that which I dare say is known to you all. The greatest man of modern times, the greatest conqueror the world ever saw since Alexander, sprang up from the dregs of the Revolution. Crushing the hydra with one hand, with the other he raised the prostrate altars of France; and as if God wished to reward him, he soon obtained the most splendid crown in the universe. The Pope himself crowned him, as did his predecessor Leo crown Charlemagne one thousand years before. Pride and ambition, however, blinded him. Though he at first told his Generals to treat with the Pope as with a first-rate power, as if he had two hundred thousand armed men, he soon forgot his obligations to him—imprisoned him for five years—seized on his estates, and was excommunicated. "What," said the Lord of Kings, "will an excommunicated manle the acens drop from the hands of my soldiers?" He, perhaps, forgot the word, but it was remembered in heaven and earth. He dragged half a million of men to Russia—his army perished by thousands, and he, by hundreds of thousands, in the snow, and he publishes a bulletin to the world in which he says: "We could do nothing, for the arms fell from the hands of my soldiers, such was the intensity of the cold." Divine Providence dictated that bulletin, that under his own hand Napoleon might proclaim to the world the dreadful power of a Papal excommunication. Even the biggest Sir Archibald Alison is obliged to register the fact. Will he dispute, as he thought, of the Papal power forever. He was Emperor of the West, and his son was King of Rome—a fatal kingdom. The Emperor, as you know, died a querulous prisoner under the jailorship of an English Colonel at St. Helena; and the King of Rome, after an inglorious life of about twenty years, died in Vienna, passing through the ruins of the Capuchin Convent in Vienna—the last resting place of the Cæsars—I have been pointed out the bronze coffin of the young King of Rome, but it bears not that title—it has merely, "Napoleon, Duke of Reichstadt." I have no doubt but that those who now persecute Pius IX. will figure in history hereafter like those who persecuted his predecessors.

You have, of course, heard over and over, the beautiful and often used quotation from an essay of the late Lord Macaulay, descriptive of the traveller from New Zealand taking his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's, while the Papacy will be still flourishing. Useful as the idea is, it is perfectly borne out by historical analogy. Wherever Peter resides, there is power—not material power, but ideal, spiritual, intellectual power, which always draws material power after it. Even in the days of early persecution the Popes possessed a great power, and that was one of the principal reasons also why the pagan Cæsars persecuted them. St. Nixus was offered his life if he gave up the wealth, which, through the hands of his deacon St. Lawrence, he had already converted into treasures in heaven by distributing it to the poor. We read of a pagan actor ridiculing the Christian religion on the stage, but offering to become a Christian if the Christians would make him their Pontiff. We read in the Epistles of St. Gregory the Great that he had such enormous estates under his control in Europe, Asia and Africa, that he was all but in a Sardinian prison. And I wish to mention one curious fact I have read in these Epistles. One of the Magistrates, whom the Pope had placed over one of his towns, dispossessed the

Jews of their Synagogue. They complained to the Pope, and he at once not only reproved the indiscreet zeal of his servant, but ordered that the building should be immediately restored to its former owner, first removing the sacred images, for it had been dedicated as a Church.

Thus, from the earliest ages the Pope has been always a great power. He was the father and the civilizer of the barbarous people who settled in the provinces of the Roman Empire. He was either a Sovereign or the father of Sovereigns. He alone survived the wreck of the Roman Empire, and the fierce contests of the Middle Ages. The Reformation left his power even greater than it was before the Reformation commenced. Though he suffered great losses in Europe, his spiritual subjects in the New World more than counterbalanced the losses in the Old.

No one can afford to despise the Pope. The French Encyclopedists attempted it, but the shaft of their wit fell pointless. He passed through all the upheaving of the great French Revolution unscathed. For the thousand time, the infidels clapped their hands, and said, the Pope is dead at last—it was buried with Pius VI. in the prison of Valenciennes. Still it survived. It perished when Pius VII. was dragged from Rome a prisoner by Radek. Pius returned to Rome triumphant, while Napoleon, his jailor, was on his way to the dreary prison of St. Helena.

No, people may hate the Pope with an unutterable hatred—they cannot despise him. He is called by two hundred millions of people the Vicar of Christ—the Head of the Church. Millions crush their teeth with rage at what they call this blasphemous assumption—their terror breaks out in the most violent invectives against him; but they cannot laugh at him. The Greek Patriarch calls himself like the Pope, the Ecumenical Bishop—in other words, the Head of the Church. Except among his own followers, this lofty title only provokes a snarl of contempt. Not so with the Pope. Undying love from two hundred millions, and undying hatred from some millions of separatists—either his ponying—contempt never.

It is undubitable that the feeling in favour of the Papacy is stronger now among Catholics than it has been for ages. The universal manifestation of feeling through Europe and America was quite unexpected by the enemies of St. Peter. The French Emperor, commanding six hundred thousand men, marks out a new map of Italy, covered with the blood of thousands in Solferino and Magenta. Everything appears to yield to his power. Austria is defeated, and for a time paralysed. England, or rather the English Government, encourage him—stupidly hoping to put down by his aid the Papacy. Thus, when certain propositions are made to him, replies by non possumus, and arms and diplomacy fall before the venerable old man of the Vatican. The Propaganda of France speak out in favour of their father, and join their voices to those of the Bishops of the world. In vain does brute force attempt to silence them. They are the mouthpieces of thirty-six millions of French Catholics—the men who placed the Sovereign on the throne—and Imperial power finds that conscience will not be restrained by police regulations. No, thank God, there is something yet in the world superior to brute force—the power of mind and conscience represented by the successor of St. Peter.

What was the material power of the Roman Empire in its palmist days compared to the spiritual power exercised by the Pope? Have you not yesterday seen a proof of it here in this Cathedral? With what willing obedience was not the apostolic mandate, appointing your venerable Bishop, received? Peter speaks, and all obey. "Go," he says to your Bishop, "take charge of the flock of Prince Edward Island. You are their Pastor, and your name and title is henceforward to be that of their capital City, Charlottetown." The decision is accepted as coming from God himself. "Go," he says to another youthful prelate, "to you I assign a new flock," tracing, as it were, with his finger, the limits of his jurisdiction. Chatham and its surrounding district is now a Diocese of the Catholic Church; and, in all probability, thousands of years will pass away, and Chatham, like the ancient Diocese of Europe, which date from almost the apostolic times, will continue the seat of a Bishop, because Peter has so traced it out and spoken the word. Eighty years ago but one Diocese existed in the whole American continent north of Mexico. Since, they have increased at the rate of nearly one a year. Such is apostolic power as exercised by the Pope.

We know, then, that as a Divine Institution, the Papacy never can perish. Founded on a rock, the gates of hell never can prevail against it; and wherever the spiritual throne of Peter is raised, temporal power accompanies it. For eighteen centuries, that throne has been shaken by rebellions, by revolutions, by persecutions; by the royal mantle of the Popes has been over and over dyed in their blood; but still there it stands, the only living monument among us of the days of the beginning of the Church. All the Empires which existed in the world when that throne was placed in Rome, have passed away. Not alone empires and kingdoms, but the very people themselves, the very nations then known, have passed away, and other races have taken their place. The languages then spoken are spoken no longer. Britain, as known to ancient times, no longer exists; it has become the home of a Saxon nation. Its name, its language, everything connected with it has changed. It is now England, converted and civilized by the great Gregory. Gaul has become France; Sarmatia, Poland; Pannonia, Hungary; Thrace, Turkey. In fact, the whole world, nations and peoples, have been changed, but the throne of Peter has remained standing amidst the wreck. It has not only survived, but it is more powerful now under the cloud of adversity which temporarily overshadows it than it was in any former age. Centuries of centuries will pass away; those wonderful revolutions which change the name, the language, the people of nations, may occur again; but the great and only permanent power in the world, until the world itself shall come to an end—until the Church itself has finished its course on earth, and the last Pope will join the long series of his predecessors in heaven.

I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the attention you have given to the Lecture. I had no resources but memory to draw on; and it was only during the spare hours I could snatch from the important duties we had to perform in the consecration of the Bishops that I could throw a few thoughts together. This, I hope, will plead my excuse with you. Again thanking you, I wish you every blessing and happiness. Addressing a Society of Irishmen, I know I speak to the most ardent defenders of the See of St. Peter. For three centuries your forefathers suffered every persecution on account of their undying attachment to the Pope. It is that, principally, which Catholicized America—which has covered the continent with at least ten millions of men of Irish blood—which, in another century, will have enveloped the so-called Anglo-Saxon population of North America in the hundred millions of the Celtic race. Had the Irish people, at the great defection of the sixteenth century, renounced their allegiance to the Pope, there would be but few Catholics, indeed, in this portion of the Western Hemisphere. See how nobly from their poverty the Irish people responded to the call on them to contribute to the support of their spiritual Father; and not alone with money, but see the youth of Ireland enrolling themselves in the ranks of the defenders of the Papacy; and I shall be very much disappointed, if ever they are brought face to face with the rabble of Mazzini or Garibaldi, or even the brave but misled Sardinian army, if they will not show them what stuff the Irish race is made of, and prove themselves worthy of the glorious Irish Brigade which so often turned the tide of battle in Europe, which never fought but to conquer, and whose officers, the McMahons, the O'Donnells, and the Nugents, are the first soldiers of Europe at the present day. I am delighted to see the sons of Erin here in this Island practising the noble art of self-defence. Every free man has a right to bear arms, and I am sure the weapons you carry never will be used but in defence of your Faith, your Country, and your Queen.

—Nora.

There is not, and there never was, on this earth, a work of human policy so well deserving of examination as the Roman Catholic Church. The history of that Church joins together the two great ages of human civilization. No other institution is left standing which carries the mind back to the times when the smoke of sacrifice rose from the Pantheon, and when catapults and tigers bounded in the Flavian amphitheatre. The present day houses are but of yesterday, when compared with the one of the Supreme Pontiff. That Rome was taken back in an unbroken series, from the Pope who crowned Napoleon in the nineteenth century, to the Pope who crowned Pius in the eighth; and far beyond the time of Pius the longest dynasty extends, till it is lost in the twilight of fable. The republic of Venice came next in antiquity. But the republic of Venice was modern when compared with the Papacy; and the republic of Venice, and the Papacy together, the Papacy remains, not in decay, but a mere antiquity's but full of life and youthful vigour. The Catholic Church is still sending forth to the farthest ends of the world missionaries as well as those who landed in Kent with Augustus; and still sending forth to the same spirit with which she confronted Attila. The number of her children is greater than in any former age. Her acquisitions in the New World have more than compensated her for what she has lost in the Old. Her

spiritual ascendancy extends over the vast countries which lie between the plains of the Missouri and Cape Horn—countries which, a century hence, may not improbably contain a population as large as that which now inhabits Europe. The members of her community are certainly not fewer than a hundred and fifty millions; and it will be difficult to show that all the other Christian sects united amount to a larger or more numerous body. She saw the commencement of all the great religions, and of all the ecclesiastical establishments, that now exist in the world; and we feel no assurance that she is not destined to see the end of them all. She was great and respected before the Saxon had set foot on Britain—before the Frank had passed the Rhine—when Grecian eloquence still flourished at Athens—when idols were still worshipped in the temple of Mecca. And she may still exist in undiminished vigour when some trader shall stand in a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's.—Essay, *Ranke's History of the Pope, Edinburgh Review, October, 1849.*

THE NEW CHURCH OF TIGNISH.

The interesting account of the consecration of the New Church of Tignish, which appeared in a late No. of the Examiner, has been perused, I am sure, with pleasure, by your Catholic readers. That was an eventful occasion for Tignish, which is no more an obscure corner of our sea-girt Isle, but occupies now a prominent position, and is named in the annals of the Catholic Parishes in the Ecclesiastical Province of Halifax.

The elegant Church erected by the Catholics of the parish of Tignish, has spread the name and fame of that locality far and wide. It can now show something grand to all who come to visit it. It can show them a Church whose elegant proportions and architectural beauty can, in some respects, vie with those of any Catholic church in the middle ages.

I do not presume to compare the New Church of Tignish with the venerable Cathedrals built in the "ages of faith." Though much inferior to them in many respects, yet it cannot be denied but that it is a beautiful building, charming the eye with its uniform symmetry, and presenting a lofty and bold appearance. It is built in the early English or Gothic style, which predominates from the year 1180 to 1307. The length of the building, including the chancel, is one hundred and forty feet. Its height from the floor to the top of the roof is sixty-five feet. Its principal entrance is in front, over which is a square tower with an octagonal spire that rises to the height of 180 feet, and is surmounted with a final and cross. There is on each side of the tower an octagonal staircase or turret, at the top of which is a beautiful cap, with a shell-like roof, and a crocketed balustrade. The Church is, moreover, entered into by two very tasty porches.

The sides of the Church are divided into six parts by large projecting buttresses, which are finished with set-offs and pediments. Between each buttress is a rich tracery window, filled with enamelled and stained glass, embellished with emblematic figures and devices from Scripture history. The north side is elevated 50 feet by 20, corresponding with the other parts of the building.

The roof of the Church is covered over with felt cloth, on which are laid purple and green slates, adding additional lustre to the external appearance of the building. The leaders and gutters running along the cornices are of double block tin, executed in a workmanlike manner by Mr. W. B. Allen, of Charlottetown.

On entering into the interior of this handsome Church, the most interesting observer even cannot but fix his admiring gaze on its noble ground ceiling, the crown of which stands fifty-five feet from the floor. His eye will be also struck with the elegantly proportioned columns which divide the nave from the aisles, and support the roof. They are known as the "Gothic" columns, and terminate with a beautiful cap from which springs a crocketed arcade arches.

At the west end of the Church is a magnificent chancel window, remarkable for its rich carved tracery and stained glass, with life-size figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph standing on pedestals of graceful design, with gorgeous canopies over their heads. The tracery is filled in with emblematic figures, viz: the side openings are fitted with gazelle cutters, being the arms of the coat of arms of I. S. M. Cross, Charles Lilly and bunch of Pomegranates. The tracery in the lead has the Dove, Lamb and Pelican. All the side and front windows are of stained glass, with ornamental borders, enamel centres, and lead sash. The heads of these windows are filled in with emblematic figures of Catholic worship. All these windows have double wrought iron ventilators; the sashes are so constructed as to admit of being raised or lowered at will, and are executed in the best style of art by Messrs. Morgan & Brothers, of New York.

The Altar, placed in the west end of the Church, is a superb piece of art. It is of Florentine marble, except the Table, which is of white marble. The centre niche is filled with a bronze figure of the Virgin, holding in her lap our Lord, after his baptism in the Jordan. The side niches are filled with bronze figures, likewise, of the Nativity and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Church, as a whole, is well designed, and reflects much credit on P. E. Kelly, of New York, who designed and executed it. The plans furnished by this architect of world-wide fame have been faithfully carried into execution by Mr. Owen Healey, of I. S. M. Cross, Charles Lilly and bunch of Pomegranates. The latter named gentleman merits every praise for his unremitting attention in superintending the work from its commencement. The skill and ability displayed by him in the various departments connected with the work, give him now a high position, and predict him a future of no mean distinction.

The foregoing description, I must confess, is very imperfect, and I am sure, that any gentleman who has an adequate idea of the Gothic beauty and magnificence of the Church of Tignish. But I must say, that any person having any taste for Ecclesiastical architecture would be well repaid in coming from any part of the Island to see so grand a Church.

In closing this communication I cannot find words to express my admiration of the generosity and magnanimity displayed by the Catholics of Tignish parish in erecting amongst themselves so superb a monument of their zeal and piety. May God reward them for their devotion in His sacred cause. May He grant length of days and happiness to the venerable Bishop of Charlottetown, through whose indefatigable labours and activity the splendid Church of Tignish has been erected. May he be preserved long to see many like it in his Diocese, his native land.

THE LAND QUESTION.

On Wednesday evening last, at the Temperance Hall, in this city, R. H. Irving, Esquire, delivered a Lecture upon this—to our community—all-important, and, just now, all-engrossing question: Hon. George Baginall in the chair.

The Lecture was conceived in a spirit of fairness and moderation, and, yet, pointedly, and without any concealment of the facts of the case of the land tenures, as between the landlords and their tenants, and the rights of the latter, and the rights of simple possession of their farms, as the only remedy which can be devised for these evils—evils which, wholly unmitigated, have, ever since this beautiful and fertile Island became a dependency of His British Crown, been the bane of its progress towards improvement and prosperity.

The lecturer was not only well written, but well read; and, containing a large amount of most valuable and important information, was well received, by not a very large, but, certainly, a truly respectable and very attentive audience.

After the close of the lecture, the audience were addressed by the Hon. G. C. Oles and E. Whelan; and also by Mr. McNeill, of Cavendish, and Mr. Archd. McNeill of this city, and Mr. Oles, in a very able and interesting speech, dispassionately, but yet, firmly, advocated the rights of the tenants; and, with much fidelity and clearness, gave an account of what had taken place in the morning before the Land Commissioners, in their Court; showing that—according to the views of the learned and very talented gentlemen, the Hon. Joseph Hensley and Samuel Thomson, Esquire, the Hon. Mr. Oles, in his opinion, applied to the Government, and whose views and opinions seemed to be fully acquiesced in by the honorable Commissioners—they, the Commissioners, being clothed with the most ample powers of investigation and discrimination—the long vexed question will, in all probability, be resolved by them, to the entire satisfaction of the tenantry and that of their best friends.

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Mr. McNeill, of Cavendish, declared his entire concurrence in the sentiments, arguments, and conclusions, of the lecturer; and expressed a wish that—on account of the great amount of information, concerning the proprietary system and its origin, which the lecturer contained—it might be delivered in every settlement or district in the Island.

Mr. Archd. McNeill, in addressing the audience, which he did in a very energetic and effective manner, pointed out the necessity of activity, caution, energy, and demonstration of combined action, on the part of the people and their delegates, for the purpose of having their wrongs and their rights fully made known to the Commissioners. This speech well merited the approbation which it received; and the cautious, watchful, uncomproising policy, which it recommended to the people, will, we hope, be practised by them, to the furtherance, not, to the realization—of their reasonable expectations and just demands.—Con.

The Kingston Daily News understands that the Orangemen of this city and vicinity to the number of 100,000 men, with at least 1000 flags and banners, will form part of the procession on the Prince's arrival in this city.

News by Telegraph!

CHARLOTTETOWN, 5th Sept., 1860.

Steamship America intercepted off Cape Race yesterday at 4 p. m.

BRITAIN—Lord Palmerston stated in the House of Commons that British subjects had been wrongfully imprisoned at Paraguay, and pending compensation demanded. The relations between the two countries continue uninterrupted. Lord Palmerston also referred in disparaging terms to the Suez Canal scheme, and the large number of shares taken in it by the Pasha of Egypt, and stated that the French Government have declared that they had nothing whatever to do with the scheme. House was counted out for lack of requisite (40) members. Jesse Hartley, Engineer, and constructor of nearly all the Liverpool docks, dead.

FRANCE—The Emperor and Empress gone to Savoy and Nice.

A decree ordering the French ports for the admission duty free of all foreign grain and flour, irrespective of flag; and vessels laden with breadstuffs exempted from tonnage. This constituted an admission of deficiency in the French harvest.

SICILY—Invasion of Calabria, and commencement of campaign, by Garibaldi, fully confirmed.

Town of Reggio attacked and taken by Garibaldi. Four thousand Calabrian insurgents joined Garibaldi in this attack.

The Royal Intendant of Polinesia was at the head of an insurrection in the Province of Basilidia.

The chiefs of the National Guard of Naples tendered their resignations in consequence of the foreign battalion not being disbanded.

A general battle imminent between the Garibaldians and Neapolitans.

PRINCE ALBERT at St. John's, F., at noon today.

BRITAIN—In the House of Commons on the 28th, Lord Palmerston acknowledged the services rendered the Christians in Syria by Abd-el-Kader, said that the British Consul had been instructed to tender thanks of British Government. House virtually concluded its labor adjourned, till 28th, when Prologation takes place.—Mr. Lindsay, M. P. authorized to present the views of the British Government relative to Navigation Laws, Belligerent rights, &c., and to enter into negotiations for opening coasting trade, &c. Lindsay said on the 8th September.

FRANCE—Emperor made very pacific speech in Lyons, causing funds to advance. Constitution says relations between France and Austria are excellent, and congratulates latter power on its reform tendency.

PARIS—Garibaldi took fort of Reggio by capitulation on the 21st. Garrison allowed to leave with muskets and personal baggage only. Garibaldians masters of fort Dell'oglio, after a short fight also occupied Villa San Giovanni.

English Ship Orful, from Hull from Messina, was seized by the passengers while the Captain was ashore at Genoa, supposed that the passengers were friends of Garibaldi, and that she was designed for him.

Syria quiet. Breadstuffs very firm. Provisions dull. Consols 92½. R. HYNDMAN.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., September 11, 1860.

THE RESULT OF AGITATION ON THE LAND QUESTION.

The *Islander* of Friday last quotes some extracts from speeches delivered by Messrs. Coles, Whelan and others, to show how much opposed they were to escheat in 1855. Those persons never denied their opposition to escheat at the time referred to, because the purchase system was then in operation, and promised to settle the township lands in freehold more speedily and at less cost than escheat could. They erred no doubt in attaching so much importance as they did to the despatches from the Colonial Office commendatory of escheat; but this error is one which they have spent most of their lives in practising, for they have always inculcated the doctrine that a despatch from a Minister of State is entitled to as much consideration as an Act of Parliament. The Liberals, however, lost their respect for Ministerial despatches when, in 1858, the Colonial Office, misled by false statements from the Proprietors, violated its solemn engagement with this Colony to give effect to the Loan Bill, which was passed here at the suggestion of a Colonial Minister. From that time the leading Liberals declared their determination to treat as so much waste paper all the despatches which had been culminated against escheat, and to agitate that question; for, although it might not be brought to a successful issue, it would lead to something else—it was believed that the agitation would be the means of procuring concessions for the tenantry of some kind; and the Court of Enquiry, which is virtually a Court of Escheat, now in operation, is the offspring, not of sympathy on the part of the present Government for the tenantry, but of the agitation which assumed formidable proportions when the Loan Bill was lost. If the tenantry and their leaders had quietly submitted to their fate—if there had been no contention with the landlords, no complaints about defective titles, no murmuring at the exaction of the arrears of rent, no resistance to the arbitrary will of the landlords when they attempted to control the conscience of the tenants with regard to political affairs, and if the rents had been regularly paid—we are quite sure we should never have heard of Col. Gray's resolutions, nor of the present Land Commission. The intrigues of the Proprietors in defeating the Loan Bill, and thereby preventing the Purchase System from taking deep root in the Colony, are at the bottom of all the agitation which has occurred within the last two or three years. If the Loan Bill had been allowed to pass, and the British Government had thereby kept good faith with this Colony, some of the best estates in the Island might have been settled in freehold ere this—the proprietors would have obtained fair prices for their lands, the Quit Rent question would not probably, have been revived to any extent, and the contention about the original titles would have been confined, no doubt, within the narrowest limits. Now, the Proprietors must sell in spite of themselves, for a transfer by sale will undoubtedly be a prominent subject in the award of the Commissioners, by which award the Proprietors are bound by law to abide. Nor is it likely that the price will be higher than that which the Government have paid for other public lands. The terms of Lord Selkirk's offer will probably be taken as the standard price at which the township lands should be sold, for his Lordship, having agreed to the Commission at the time he made the offer to sell his estates at two shillings and four pence sterling per acre, and he being one of the principal landlords connected with the Colony—considered that this was a fair price for township lands. It is very reasonable to suppose that he did not arrive at this conclusion without consulting Sir Samuel Cunard. The latter named gentleman is the most influential of all the proprietors. His consent was, in the first instance, deemed necessary to the institution of the Commission. By his influence Lord Selkirk and others were induced to accede to it, and it is more than probable that when Lord Selkirk made the offer to sell his estates at 2s. 4d. an acre, he did so with the knowledge and concurrence of Sir Samuel Cunard; and it is equally probable that Sir Samuel is prepared to follow his example. If, then, the properties held by two such proprietors as those named can be procured on the liberal terms offered by one of them, we say now, as we said last Session in the Assembly, that the acceptance of the offer will be attended with more advantages than escheat, and should, by all means, be embraced. But Lord Selkirk's offer is advantageous in another point of view. All other proprietors must sell on terms not knowing his, if the Commissioners should so decide, as we believe they will.

In addition to the advantages which will accrue from greatly lessening the price of lands, the High Court of Commissioners cannot lose sight of the Quit Rents and Reserve questions. The Quit Rents must be paid, and the Reserves given up, or some equivalent yielded for them; and where it can be clearly shown that, independent of the conditions contained in the

original grants, there is no good title to land on the part of persons who assume the rights of owners;—and there are several—it will be the duty of the Commissioners to recommend an escheat, which must be carried into effect.

These are some of the advantages which followed a change of opinion in the minds of the leading members of the Liberal party with respect to a general agitation of the land tenures; and that change would never have occurred but for the stupid obstinacy of the Proprietors and their Agents.

THE LAND COMMISSION.

Her Majesty's High Court of Commissioners appointed to settle on equitable principles all differences arising out of the land tenures, commenced its sitting in the Colonial Building on Wednesday last. The Court consists of the following gentlemen:—The Honorable J. H. Gray, of New Brunswick, nominee of the Crown, and Chairman of the Commission; the Honorable Joseph Howe, Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, nominee of the House of Assembly of this Island; and John William Ritchie, Esquire, of Halifax, nominee of the Proprietors. Benjamin DesBrisay, Esq., was appointed Clerk or Secretary to the Commissioners. The Hon. Joseph Hensley, and Samuel Thomson, Esq., of St. John, N. B., appeared as Counsel for the Tenantry, retained by the Government; and G. R. Haliburton, Esq., of Halifax, and Charles Palmer, Esq., appeared on behalf of the Proprietors.

Hon. Mr. Hensley first addressed the Court, stating that the resolutions on the Land Question generally which the House of Assembly had passed in the Session of 1859, had been placed in his hands by the Government, as declaratory of the views which the Executive desire to have carried out by the Commission.

Mr. Hensley expressed himself with great caution and deliberation, and placed the claims of the Tenantry, so far as his instructions served, in the best possible light.

[We did not hear the whole of Mr. Hensley's speech, but since writing this notice, we have been furnished with some lengthy notes of it, which we will endeavour to make use of for our next No.]

Mr. Thomson next addressed the Court, and for about half an hour claimed the attention of all present by the earnest and eloquent style of his address.—the broad, yet ultra liberal principles he enunciated and defended touching the duties of landlords, the claims of the suffering tenantry, the deception which had been practised in inveigling many of them to commence life in the forest, the false promises by which they were allured, and the usurpations and grinding tyranny of land speculators—created a general feeling of surprise in the Court, which made a ludicrous and the very reverse of a pleasing impression on the countenances of the Proprietors present, who saw plainly enough that the counsel retained by a Proprietary Government had no sympathies for the proprietors as a class. Mr. Thomson combated the opinion expressed in this paper last week with respect to the powers of the Commission. It appeared to us, from the views put forth by the Government in their organ, that the Court would not enter into the question of Escheat—that the title of the landholders would be deemed sound, and that, therefore, the Commissioners could do little more than recommend an abatement of back rents, and determine the price per acre at which the proprietors should be advised to sell their lands. Mr. Thomson stated that if this view were correct, the Commission was useless, and the sooner it was dissolved the better. He, however, contended that the powers of the Court were of the most ample and absolute description—but by virtue of those powers the Commission can settle every dispute arising out of the land tenures, whether relating to the original grants, to the Quit Rents or the Fishery Reserves. With regard to Escheat, he believed that every Colony possessed of representative government has the power to establish a Court of Escheat at any time—that such a Court might have been established here long ago, without applying to the Home Government on the subject; but that, at all events, the Court he was then addressing possessed larger powers than any Court of Escheat which could be put in operation—that it was not tied down to technicalities and legal forms, but could shape its proceedings to suit any circumstances that might arise; and could escheat any lands that were clearly liable to forfeiture. Mr. Thomson referred to the impression which appeared to prevail on the minds of many proprietors, that they could not be bound by the award of the Commission, because they had not given their concurrence to its appointment. That was an erroneous impression. Every person holding large estates in this Colony was bound by the Act of the Legislature to comply with the award of the Commission, and it did not matter whether or not he had placed his hand to a paper stating his willingness to do so. Mr. Thomson concluded by drawing a graphic picture of the evils of the rent-paying system, as the great source of national poverty, wretchedness and discontent. Many, very many persons, were indeed, he said, by false representations, to come to this Island, with the belief that they were about to settle down on clear and well cultivated farms, at a trifling rent of a shilling an acre, but instead of that, they found nothing but the primeval forest before them, to clear and cultivate which would cost them £3 or £4 an acre, many of them never having cut down a tree or used an axe in their life time. But their troubles did not end with their labours on the land. After spending some of their best years, and exhausting their energies in improving the land for the proprietors, they might emigrate to some other country; where, after accumulating a little property, they would be honoured with a visit from their former landlord or agent, and made to understand that the obligations which they had contracted under their old leases followed them to their new homes—that they could be made to pay rent as usual, because, under the land tenures, they were considered as serfs inseparable from the soil. When such a tenure prevailed there could be no prosperity or happiness; and the learned Counsel congratulated the High Court of Commissioners on the opportunity which was presented to their Excellencies of inaugurating a change which would speedily and effectually abolish that tenure.

Mr. Haliburton and Mr. Charles Palmer made each a few observations, to the effect, that the learned Counsel forthwith tenantry should make out a case against the Proprietors before they could enter on any discussion, or state in writing the particular grievances which they wished the Court to deal with. Messrs. Hensley and Thomson declined to pursue such a course, stating that all the necessary facts would come out in the course of the enquiry.

The remainder of the day was taken up in conversation between the Commissioners, the Counsel on both sides, and several other gentlemen present, as to the order of proceeding, the necessity of getting information from the country by means of delegations, and in settling the time for adjourning the Court to Prince and King's Counties.

On Thursday, William Cooper, Esq., M. P. P., was heard according to previous arrangement, before the Commissioners, and gave a lengthy statement of the Land Question. He submitted a report of a Committee of the House of Assembly agreed to in 1835, together with an address from himself to the people of the Island, as embodying all the facts of the question. Mr. Cooper having stated that a Bill to establish a Court of Escheat was passed in this Island in 1860, in accordance with instruction from the Home Government, and that the Bill was suppressed through the influence or connivance of the proprietors, the Court instituted a searching enquiry into the facts of this case, and commanded the attorney of the Colonial Secretary, who was required to produce the manuscript journals and records, to show