

THE EXAMINER.

Monday, June 9, 1851.

THE LAST ISLANDER.

Our readers are aware that since we resumed the publication of THE EXAMINER we have taken no notice, either directly or indirectly, of the many base and malignant accusations, constantly appearing in the above named paper, against ourselves and the party with which, in politics, we are connected. Our silence has been induced—not by any want of confidence in ourselves, or terror of our adversary's prowess and ability, whom we have more than once roughly handled, when he was, in by gone days, playing a more certain game than he is at present, and was something less of the blackguard, and more of the controversialist;—but by an uncontrollable repugnance to enter upon a scolding match with the abandoned editor of the *Islander*, while our time and attention could be more advantageously employed. We have long since become indifferent to Newspaper abuse; but we are more especially so now when that abuse emanates from the pen of an individual who is hated and despised in the community wherein he lives—is treated with little better than contempt by those who feed him—and whose word, be it for good or evil, does not weigh a feather's weight upon the minds of any class of the people at all acquainted with his history. The individual to whom we allude has been, over twelve months in the pay and service of the once dominant, but now condemned and fallen Tory faction;—and we are confident that during that space of time he has not only not procured twelve supporters for his employers, but disgusted many people once friendly to Conservative principles; and we are equally confident that if he continue writing for twelve months in the same manner as he is doing now, he will fail to convince any unprejudiced person that he is advocating the cause of truth and justice in this Colony,—or that his employers, as a political party, have merited the respect and confidence of its inhabitants.

We are not now going to reverse our recent practice, and enter upon a defence of our private character against the assaults of the late and preceding Numbers of the *Islander*; but merely to point out the utter fallacy of some allegations against the present Government published in Friday's paper, solely with the view of making an impression on the minds of the constituency of Prince County, and obstructing the return of the official candidates:—

COUNCILLOR'S OATH.—Remarks upon the Oath invariably taken by members of the Executive Council, occupy the leading position in the *Islander*. The electors of Prince County are told that in consequence of having taken this oath, Messrs. Warburton and Pope are precluded from advocating any measures for the improvement of the tenantry. This impudent falsehood is propped up by the assumption—equally false—that as the Government are enjoined by Earl Grey's Despatch of the 12th February not to agitate the Escheat question, they cannot consequently support any other measure relating to the tenure of land; just as if

Escheat were inseparable from every thing else. Why does not the *Islander* advocate the question condemned by the Despatch, when its editor is not shackled by a Councillor's oath, nor ever likely to be? But the *Islander* has another object in quoting the oath, and presenting it in the manner it does to the electors of Prince County; this is, to shew the people that Messrs. Warburton and Pope are bound to serve the Governor and to do his bidding at all times; and, it is insinuated, that as the Governor and Lord Grey are leagued together to oppress and tyrannise over the inhabitants of this Island, for some undefined and undefineable purpose, the official candidates should not be returned to participate in the crime of the Governor and Colonial Minister. It is really painful to reflect that any individual, from a desire for revenge, or from lack of argument, would be so lost to sense and reason, and to all manly feeling, as thus to attempt to stain the character of an amiable and good man, just come amongst us; and to strive to make it appear that a nobleman justly celebrated for his enlarged views, and anxious desire to promote the happiness of all Her Majesty's Colonial subjects—has any interest whatever in seeking to oppress a handful of poor tenantry in the little Colony of P.E. Island. The *Islander*, it would appear, is impressed with the brilliant idea that the Colonial Minister's tenure of office depends upon his keeping the tenantry here in slavery to the proprietors! Well! Well!! one would suppose that the fellow who could harbour such a thought deserves either a straight-jacket or a cap and bells.

Now, as to this diabolical oath that is said to have made tyrants of Warburton and Pope—it is precisely the same form of oath as was taken by Haviland, Lane, Hodgson, Palmer, Goodman, and all the rest of the old Council: so that if His Excellency's present advisers are the creatures of his will, and the oppressors of the country, then the *Islander* must admit, what it has been all along labouring to disprove, that the late Government was very tyrannical, and that the Council were mere puppets in the hands of Sir Donald. We wish the *Islander* would enlighten us why the taking of an oath by one set of men instantly transforms them into hideous tyrants, whilst it leaves others such good and estimable people as the late Council have been depicted by our contemporary. The oath in question is about the most unexceptionable formula we have ever read. It declares that a member of Council shall bear true allegiance to the Queen, and be true and faithful to Her Representative—that he shall promote Her Majesty's affairs with his best advice and counsel—that he shall guard against foreign invasion, intestine commotion, and seditious conspiracy against the Queen or Her Representative, and that he shall not divulge the secret debates of Council. This is a correct abstract of the oath, and human ingenuity cannot possibly torture it into the vile thing which the *Islander* would have the people believe that it is. The oath was not made for the present Government—it was made for all time, and is, we presume, the same form as that used in the other Provinces. It was taken, we repeat, by the predecessors of the existing Council, and must be taken by their successors; and its use does not render the new Council any more "servile" than the old.

The *Islander* has for several weeks past anathematized Earl Grey's Despatch of the 12th February, which, with unparalleled presumption, it styles "a bloody Despatch" and has repeatedly accused the present Government with having betrayed the public interests for taking office with that Despatch before them. The *Islander* does not perceive that it is trumpeting the infamy of its masters in the late Government, for if the Despatch be so inimical to the public interests, the old Council should have resigned the moment it reached the Colony. They were all aware of the Despatch not long before the new Civil List Bill wedged them out of the Council; and if Responsible Government had not been put in practice, they would have remained in office, though there were fifty despatches fifty times more objectionable than the one referred to. But there is really nothing objectionable in it, as we already shewed in a previous No. of the *Examiner*. It simply instructs the Lieut. Governor not to countenance an agitation for Escheat, which is never likely to occur,—but to give his sanction and support to any other practicable measure that may be devised for the improvement of the tenantry. If, however, the Despatch was ever so objectionable, it ill behoves the *Islander*—upheld and fostered as it is by parties who long enjoyed honors and emoluments under the Crown—to stigmatize a document emanating from the Queen's confidential adviser by the disrespectful cognomen of "bloody."

THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Speaker Rae's late exhibition of "petulance and irritability" (to use the language with which the *Islander* objected to his appointment as Speaker in 1850) having provoked a trifling castigation from ourselves and Mr. Warburton—the editor of the *Islander* has folded him in his tender embraces, and uttered a furious growl against those who cannot admire his "petulance and irritability." The *Islander's* defence of Mr. Rae may well induce that gentleman to exclaim, "O save me from my friends!" for such defence is calculated to awaken reminiscences not at all complimentary to the Speaker. The *Islander* informs us that Mr. Rae "was the only man of the majority who would neither betray his constituents, nor corrupt the Assembly for the sake of office." This sounds amazingly fine after the revelation in Mr. Warburton's letter, to the effect, that Mr. Rae wanted to barter the Speaker's chair to Mr. Fraser for the Collectorship of Impost! Was there no attempt at corruption in thus offering the highest office in the gift of the Assembly for the sake of £200 a year? And would Mr. Rae's constituents believe they were betrayed if Mr. Fraser had the meanness to assent to, and Mr. Rae the power to complete, the bargain? Since the *Islander* is so kind as to answer for Mr. Rae's conduct, let it reply to these questions.

REPORT ON THE SECRETARY'S FEES.

The *Islander* having committed a palpable forgery in giving an unauthorized and scandalously incorrect version of the above Report, treats the framers of that Report to a column and a half of abuse, but manifests its utter inability to controvert a single fact or argument of that document. The Report is correctly printed in this paper, on the authority of the Clerk of the Assembly, and those who read it must perceive at once that the charge of illegal exaction of fees is proved beyond the possibility of doubt. Mr. Palmer's speech on this subject which we likewise print in to-day's paper, does not palliate or excuse the conduct of the Secretary; but merely

asks that he may be allowed time to make a defence. That there were some unimportant errors of style and orthography in the original draft, we will freely admit; but these do not impair the pith of the Report. If Mr. Fraser sinned against the rules of English composition, or wrote without having Lindley Murray in his hand, he did no more than members of the minority frequently do. Hunt up the original productions of Mr. Palmer, who is the leader of that minority, and you will scarcely find one resolution, address or report, which will not furnish a grammatical blunder in every sentence. It is a very sorry defence for Mr. Haviland, that the accusation against him is not expressed in the purest English!!

THE CIVIL LIST.—The *Islander* admits that by the Civil List Bill passed in the late session the Liberals have saved to the colony the sum of £295. In Mr. Whelan's second letter to his constituents the saving was stated at £395, but in printing the letter the item of £100, travelling charges to the Governor, was accidentally omitted. If the *Islander* will add this sum to the £295, the correctness of our statement will be apparent. And we may further add the two following items:

Reduction on Warrants by the operation of the Loan Bill, and by the sale of Debentures,	£300 0 0
Fees illegally retained by the late Secretary, which the Government will require to be refunded,	795 0 0
Saving on salaries, &c.	395 0 0
Total gain to the colony,	£1,490 0 0

We should hardly have thought of this addition to our saving but for the *Islander's* injudicious meddling with the subject.

The public could never, at any time, have expected much gentlemanly behaviour from the individual who conducts the *Islander*, but we question if they ever looked for any thing so bad as the outrage offered last Friday to the feelings of our venerable Chief Justice, by stating that he accepted a bribe from the House of Assembly. It is a curious way of giving a bribe, to compensate an old and faithful officer for a reduction of his salary, in compliance with the direction of Her Majesty's Government. The Liberal Party have been often stigmatized as acting unjustly towards the servants of the Crown, but their worst enemies cannot charge them with offering an unmerited insult to the highest judicial functionary in the Colony. If the patrons of the *Islander* are not ashamed of their advocate, it is because they are as insensible to shame as he is.

THE PARTIAL ELECTIONS.

The Honourables Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Pope and Lord, and Allan Fraser, Esq., left Town this morning for the Westward. It is their intention to attend a public meeting to be held this afternoon at Mrs. Barrett's, Lot 19, and several other meetings throughout Prince County, during this week and the next. We have no doubt they will give a good account of Messrs. Gaul, Conroy, and the Speaker, who are labouring hard, with the aid of rum, tobacco, and rent rolls, to effect what they will never be fit to accomplish, namely, the defeat of the Government candidates. What a glorious spree the rum-drinkers will have at the expense of the Charlottetown Tories! Every fel-