

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON TIMES.

Sir,—Every one who has observed the course of events in London during the last 10 or 15 years cannot fail being aware of the undue facilities which exist of creating joint-stock companies.

Long lists of directors are appended to the prospectus of each company, composed sometimes of gentlemen who do not exist at all; sometimes of those who do exist, but who have given no sanction to the use of their names; and not unfrequently persons of respectability lend the use of their names, without ever taking any charge of the concern, or even having any interest in it.

Then follows another important point: a company is established professing to have 500,000L, sometimes 1,000,000L, or upwards of capital; and hence the public are sadly deceived when it is found that a tenth part of the capital has not been subscribed for, and perhaps not a tenth part of that paid up.

The Legislature might surely deal with these two points,—the responsibility of directors, and the amount of the capital of the companies.

This at first sight may appear a work beyond the reach of Parliament; but there are steps which might be taken which would not be without a most salutary effect.

In the first place, then, I would suggest, that no body of proprietors should be entitled to establish or carry on any business whatever under the form of a joint-stock company, without such being duly registered at some Government office appointed for that purpose, and that certain penalties should be incurred by all persons interested in such concerns, carried on without the requisite Government license.

As a second point, I would suggest that a formal written acknowledgment should be required on the part of every one who is patron, director, or trustee of any company, stating his acceptance of such office, and specifying his address, profession, or occupation, and that on resigning any such trust, it shall be incumbent on him under certain penalties to notify the same to the Government office.

In short, I should wish that there were established a register of public companies, on the same principle as a register of ships, which should be open, as is the case with reference to ships, for the inspection of the public. I do not go so far as to require that directors of public companies should be placed on the same footing as drivers of public carriages, and wear a badge with a number, but I think no man should be allowed to be a director in a public company without knowing the responsibility he incurs, and without the proprietors or those interested in the concern knowing who and what their directors really are.

Having thus given an outline of a plan which might be coupled with many useful suggestions, with reference to registering the names and qualifications of directors and other officers of public bodies, Government should then adopt some stringent laws respecting the capital subscribed, and the capital paid up.

There are certain rules laid down on this head respecting railway companies, but none, that I am aware of, form any check in this respect in the formation of any other joint-stock company. Parliament might with propriety insist upon a certain relative portion of the subscribed capital being actually paid up. One point, however, should be insisted upon—that the actual paid up capital of every company should be duly registered, and could be ascertained upon inquiry. I would allow the public no longer to be misled with flaming announcements of "Capital one million," when there may not be as many shillings in the concern; and I would go so far as to render it necessary for every company to have a board in their offices, with a printed list of directors and other officers, and the amount of subscribed and paid-up capital of the company, subjecting the directors to punishment as a misdemeanour for every infringement of this law.

It is true that the paid-up capital is not always a preventative against loss or ruin, as we have seen lately in the affair of the Bank of Manchester; but in that case the paid-up capital was large, and was known to be so, and hence the depositors of the bank, although not the shareholders, are saved; but if the actual paid-up capital had been only 200,000L, instead of 800,000L, notwithstanding an immense subscribed capital, not only the shareholders, but the depositors, might, in many instances, have been ruined.

Now, what I want is, that Government should bring in some legislative measure to prevent the public being misled and mystified: let certain laws be passed for the benefit of the community at large, for the regulation of joint-stock companies, and I am sure no more efficient mode can be adopted than a public register of the names of their directors and officers, and a public register of the names of the proprietors, together with a statement of the real paid-up, and not the nominal capital of the company. These established, let an efficient code of laws be instituted on other points, over which the directors should have control, and proper penalties for the infringement of these laws inflicted; we should then have a better state of things, a purer administration of public trusts, and many unfortunate individuals saved from ruin.

I have ventured to bring these general views to your notice. The Government or some member of Parliament might do much good by studying the subject, without embracing the wide field in reference to joint-stock banks and their various bearings on the currency and trade of the country, which that particular question involves, and introduce some measure for the protection of the public in the administration of joint-stock companies in general.

Oct. 26. ONE OF THE PUBLIC.

THE EFFECTS OF THE ENGLISH CORN LAWS UPON LANDED ESTATES IN CANADA.

(From the Montreal Times.)

The news by the steamer of the 3rd inst., confirms the anticipations largely entertained, that Canada produce would be included in the duty consequent upon a fall of the corn averages—and forbids the expectation, that prices can return to the point currently paid in the spring. The ablest English writers of the present day, with few exceptions, admit that Sir Robert Peel's sliding scale has worked disastrously for the dealers in corn; that it has baffled the calculations of the most sagacious and intelligent merchants. If we wish to investigate the subject, we must bring to the enquiry an acquaintance with the agricultural pretensions of the continental nations; yet, if we were to limit our observations to that extended sphere alone, we should labour under erroneous and unfounded impressions. Egypt, long the granary of the Roman Empire, yet retains her reputation as a fertile and inexhaustible field for farming operations. She yet pours her surplus food wherever a market offers; and when periods of scarcity enable the importer to incur the expenses of a voyage from the east, or South America, each country responds to the call, and presses her products upon the English market.—Every nation, having a surplus, seeks the most profitable mart; and, as such, England has long been esteemed. But English statesmen erected a toll gate, through which foreign produce was compelled to pass, ere it became free to the consumer; that toll there gathered, varied in amount, at different epochs—a fluctuating scale next followed—and now we have the sliding scale of Sir Robert Peel—all partaking of one uniform feature—namely, protection to the English farmer. We hold that were the corn laws abrogated, the value of land in England and on the continent, adapted to farming purposes, would assimilate in value—that in England it would decline, while on the continent it would advance—and the only difference between the two would be measured by the expense of conveying farm produce from the latter to the former. The

corn laws have not, however, been abolished; they are what writers term modified—and continental wheat can now enter England upon more favourable terms. The effect of this change must inevitably develop itself in a gradual depreciation of landed estate in England, and the enhanced value of continental property. Let us now turn to an examination of the question, as affecting Canada. The Lower Province is not a wheat growing country—but our exports are drawn from the west, and the traffic thus fostered interests us in the operation of the present law. According to the present system, the averages are lower by ten shillings a quarter than under the former law—our exports are consequently brought into closer competition with continental wheat in the English market—and the result has been to equalize the value of both to our prejudice. The necessary charges attending a tedious voyage across the Atlantic lessen our profits. But we encounter a further disadvantage:—the cost of manual labour, on this continent, and the European continent, are essentially different. Our scanty population cannot compete with the redundant masses of Poland, Russia and Germany, a mixture of serfs and freemen. The lords of the continental soil controul the industry of their dependants, and the only inconvenience they can experience springs from a diminution of their rent-roll. The value of farm produce might fall fifty per cent. below the present point, without materially circumscribing their means of enjoyment. It is otherwise on this continent: an impetus was imparted to the cultivation of the soil—the reclamation of the wilderness, arising from the remunerating returns secured by the English market to the Upper Canada farmer—and investments were freely made, under a belief that the corn laws would be maintained. For the future, the Upper Canada farmer must be content with lighter profits; but they share the decline with the English farmer, who must likewise submit to the policy of the day. It is not improbable that landed estate in this colony must participate in the downward tendency which the products of Canada encounter. The income derivable from a farm is regulated by the amount of money realized, after the necessary expenditures in sowing, gathering, and bringing to market the crop. If that crop does not return to the farmer of 1843 within twenty-five per cent. of what he previously obtained, his estate is only worth, in money, three-fourths the sum he obtained in 1841. It is thus that we view the question as affecting landed estate. We may be told that labour will likewise fall in price. This we admit. But we point to the wages usually paid on the European Continent as proof positive that even low wages cannot secure a higher value for landed estate. The truth will gradually but certainly gain ground, that we must adopt a fresh point of departure—that with the introduction of Sir Robert Peel's sliding scale has followed a reduction in farm produce, landed estate, labour, and, as a natural consequence, the means of paying for our imports of manufactured goods. Our present embarrassments arise from the altered policy of the Imperial Government; and though the merchant is apt to attribute his difficulties to an immediate and tangible pressure, he is but a minor agent in the exemplification of a transition from one standard of value to another. The extensive dealer suffers, and must suffer, the most. He alone escapes who withdraws from the contest, and remains a quiescent observer.

THE SPIRIT OF TRAVELLING.—Some years ago, on my way to Paris, on some matters connected with our embassy, as I embarked in the steamer at the Tower, I met a rather showy figure at breakfast, who frankly enough told me that he was the son of a Birmingham manufacturer, going to Calais on a speculation in buttons, and as a slight appendage to his speculation, to see France—which he conceived would be perfectly effected by seeing Calais. This comprehensive traveller and I parted on Calais pier—he to his buttons and I to my journey. I had not been four and twenty hours in Paris, when I found him in the coffee-room of Maurice's, having exhausted Calais, and determined to see a little more of the world. In two days, I set out for Vienna, with despatches. My first day was spent in the Ambassador's bureau; my second, in rambling through the curiosities of that very curious city. In the evening, happening to step into a coffee-house on the Prater, I saw my Birmingham friend calmly discussing his coffee and cigar. He told me that, having seen Paris in twelve hours, he thought he might as well annex Vienna to his route, and have it to say that he had seen something which his townsmen had not seen. In another week, I was on my way to Greece. I found him engaged in a boxing match with a Greek among the pillars of the Parthenon. The combat having ceased, (much to the disadvantage of the red-capped and roguish countryman of Achilles, the man of buttons told me that he had been driven out of Vienna, on finding it crowded with his townsmen; and that he was about to leave Greece for the same reason. We then parted, as I presumed, for the last time; but, crossing Egypt, on my way to India, and turning off the road to see the Pyramids, what should I see at the foot of the Pyramid of Cheops but my travelling friend once more! His story was still the same. Sick of being haunted down by his countrymen, he had thrown himself into the first steamer that had passed the Piræus; it was bound to Alexandria. When I found him, he was in extreme ill-temper—the only habitable hut in the neighbourhood being hired a week before by a party of his indefatigable townsmen. He was then in doubt whether he should go to India or Abyssinia—determined to have it to say that he had seen some part of the world by himself, yet almost making up his mind to the certainty of finding some button-making friend already anticipating him, whether he pitched his tent on the summit of the Himalaya, or watered his camel at the sources of the Nile.—New Monthly Magazine.

PRESSURE OF THE ATMOSPHERE.—The weight of the atmosphere is near fifteen pounds on every square inch, so that if we could entirely squeeze out the air between our hands, they would cling together with a force equal to the pressure of double this weight, because the air would press upon both hands; and if we could contrive to suck or squeeze out the air between one hand and the wall, it would be pressed on it with the weight of above two hundred pounds, near fifteen pounds on every square inch of the hand! Now, by a late most curious discovery of Sir Everard Home, the distinguished anatomist, it is found that this is the very process by which flies and other insects of a similar description are enabled to walk upon perpendicular surfaces, however smooth, as the sides of walls and panes of glass in windows, and to walk as easily along the ceilings of rooms, with their bodies downwards and their feet overhead. Their feet, when examined by a microscope, are found to have flat skins or flaps, like the feet of web-footed animals, as ducks and geese; and they have, by means of strong folds, the power of drawing the flap close down upon the glass or wall the fly walks on, and thus squeezing out the air completely, so as to make a vacuum between the foot and the glass or wall. The consequence of this is, that the air presses the foot on the wall with a very considerable force, compared to the weight of the fly; for if its feet are to its body in the same proportion as ours are to our bodies, since we could support by a single hand on the ceiling of the room (provided it made a vacuum) more than our whole weight of 200 pounds, the fly can easily move on four feet in the same manner, by help of the vacuum made under its feet. And it has likewise been found that some of the larger sea animals are, by the same construction, enabled to climb the perpendicular and smooth surfaces of the ice hills among which they live. Some kinds of lizards have the same power of climbing, and of creeping with their bodies downwards along the ceiling of the room, and the means by which they are enabled to do so are the same. And in the large feet of those animals the contrivance is easily observed, of the toes and muscle, by which the skin of the foot is pinned down, and the air excluded in the act of walking or climbing; but it is the very same, only upon a larger scale, with the mechanism of a fly's or a butterfly's foot; and both operations, the climbing of the sea-horse upon the ice, and the creeping of the fly upon the window or the ceiling, are performed exactly by the same power, the weight of the atmosphere, which causes the quicksilver to stand in the weather glass, the wind to whistle through a key hole, and the piston to descend in an old steam engine.—Brougham.

SUICIDE OF COLT.—John C. Colt, who was sentenced to be hung at New York on Friday the 18th Nov. for the murder of Mr. Adams, printer and publisher, and who is stated in several papers to have been actually executed, committed suicide a short time before the hour appointed for his death. JEROME BONAPARTE.—Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, son of Jerome Bonaparte, formerly King of Westphalia, and brother of Napoleon, is the Chairman of a Committee of an Agricultural Society in Maryland, to award premiums for the best show of horses, &c.—The American farmer, Mr. Bonaparte, is as happy a man, probably, as Jerome II, King of Westphalia could be, had events allowed such a personage now to have existence.

THE BRITISH TREATY.—A letter from Mr. Cushing, published in the Newburyport Herald, gives a description of this public document. It says the treaty is fairly engrossed, in a thin volume of folio ruled paper, bound in crimson velvet, with ribbons to tie the covers together, when closed; and depending from which, by two silver or silk cords, with large tassels of the same materials, is the seal, five or six inches in diameter, and an inch thick. The seal is contained in a silver box or case, stamped on the cover with a beautiful raised impression of the British arms, and represents Queen Victoria on horseback, with a page holding the horse, and surrounding the figures the legend—"Victoria Dei Gratia Britanniarum Regina Fidei Defensor." The signature to the ratification, by the Queen, is in a large bold hand, Victoria R.

A Curious Case of Female Deception.—One of those strange and almost unaccountable cases of deception which we hear of once or twice in an age, was developed at the Police Office on Saturday afternoon. A person who has for the last four years followed the business of a tinker and teamster alternately in this city, and who is well known to many of our citizens, was brought up before Justice Osburn, charged with hanging out false signals—being not exactly what outward appearances would lead honest and unsuspecting persons to believe—sailing under false colors. About two weeks since this person was married to a very respectable and hard working girl, who by her industry had laid up a considerable sum of money. The poor girl found out in a few days that all is not gold that glitters—that appearances are deceitful—in short, that her dear husband was a woman! This fact being fully established to the satisfaction of all parties, the faithless swain—or rather deceitful jade—was arrested, examined at the police office, and sent to jail. A crowd of the curious followed her ladyship to her new lodgings, making many original and spirited remarks, called out by the novelty of the case. No other reason can be assigned for this strange marriage alliance, except the desire on the part of the husband to possess himself of the money which the object of his affections had saved up from her hard earnings and unwearied industry.—Albany Citizen.

VERA CRUX, October 19, 1842.—Yesterday at 11 o'clock, p. m., the expedition which is to march against the insurgents of Yucatan embarked for their destination, under the command of Brigadier General Jose Vincent Minon. It appears that Santa Anna, under the plea of continued ill health, has surrendered the post of General-in-chief of the Mexican armies to various subordinate chieftains, and intends abstaining from all personal supervision of the hostile operations in which his force are engaged. His principal reliance is placed in General Bravo, whom he has ordered his soldiers to obey by solemn proclamation.

CAPE HAYTIE.—On the 4th ult. fever was prevailing to a most awful extent at Cape Haytien—Nearly two-thirds of the survivors of the late destructive earthquake had fallen victims to it.

The Colonial Herald.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1842.

The Second November Mail, we learn from a Pictou paper received by the *Walton*, arrived at Halifax on Sunday last. The news by the Steamer had not, however, reached Pictou when the paper to which we refer was printed; and as we have ourselves received no Mail from Nova Scotia during the week, we are, in consequence, compelled to go to press without it.

HALIFAX, N. S., Nov. 29.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.—At a meeting of the Roman Catholics of Halifax, held on Sunday the 20th November, in the new School Room, E. Kenny, Esq., in the Chair, a Committee was formed, and subscriptions raised to build a new Catholic Chapel at the north end of the Town. £850 was subscribed at the Meeting. Bishop Walsh was appointed Treasurer of the fund. The meeting adjourned to the following Sunday, after high mass.—Times.

A PIRATE.—A correspondent of the St. John Courier, writing from Westport, N. S. in this Province, says:

The schooner *Sussex*, Capt. Harris, which arrived at Westport, N. S. on the 11th inst. from the West Indies, reports that when in lat. 30 30, long. 68, saw a brig to windward, about five miles distant, bearing down, and when within two miles of the schooner, hoisted a Spanish flag, and appeared desirous of speaking. Capt. H. not liking the appearance of the brig, continued on his course. At 4, p. m. the brig came alongside and hailed, when Capt. H.'s suspicions were fully verified, as there were on deck, as near as he could judge, about one hundred men, apparently foreigners, well armed. The stranger, after questioning Capt. H. very closely as to where he was from, his cargo, &c. which he assured him was only salt, (an article, probably, not of sufficient value for his notice,) and after keeping company about an hour, altered his course, and stood to the southward.—The following is a description of the brig—About 150 tons, full-rigged, masts raked very much, hull very long and sharp—painted black from her truck to the water.

BAD SPECULATION.—The Canadian Stud Horse imported by the Central Board of Agriculture, was sold this week, at Public Auction, for thirty-five pounds currency—he cost ninety. The purchase of this animal by the Board, was certainly no evidence of the shrewdness of that Body, and we regret it; they have been most shamefully imposed upon. We should think him dear at thirty pounds—for he is, to all appearance, little superior to most Sable Island Studs, and certainly inferior to many of the French breed to be found in the Island of Cape Breton.—Novascotian, Nov. 30.

THE ISLANDER, a weekly (or weekly?) Journal, published by Mr. John Ings, of this Town, made its debut on Saturday last. The Editor commences his literary career with an article of rather unwieldy length, considering the "dormancy" of the times; but although we were just about to sit down to a savoury dish of hot beef-steaks, &c. when our new acquaintance made his appearance, yet such was the curiosity we felt on the occasion, that we suddenly suspended our gastronomic operations, as if by magic, which suspension—despite the good fare before us—remained uninterrupted until we had actually plodded through the article aforesaid. We must say, however, that we dislike it in toto, for after labouring hard, for the greater part of one whole hour, to digest—not our dinner, dear readers, but—the manifesto in question, we found ourselves about as wise as when we commenced that pleasing operation—with an empty stomach and a cold collation to the bargain. However, as the Editor of THE ISLANDER is evidently a raw hand at the "bellows," we refrain, for the present, from making any further comment on this very sapient article, notwithstanding the exceedingly polite notice he has bestowed upon us, and the manner in which we have hitherto thought proper to conduct our Journal; and shall allow him to enjoy, unmolested and undisturbed, the very good opinion he evidently entertains of his own powers—with all the credit he so modestly "arrogates" to himself, to boot. In conclusion, we most sincerely and heartily wish our con-

temporary may realize, *malgré* the above remarks—all of which we trust he will take in good part—that success in his undertaking which he appears so confidently to anticipate.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY.—The members of this Society celebrated the anniversary of their Patron Saint, by supping together on Wednesday, the 30th ult., at the Prince Edward Island Hotel. Among the numerous toasts that were drank, were—"The day, and all who honor it;" "The Queen;" "Her Royal Consort, and Royal Offspring;" "His Excellency Sir Henry Vere Huntley, the worthy and respected Chief of the Society;" "Lady Huntley, and the fair daughters of Prince Edward Island;" "The Parent Society of London;" "The Branch Societies all over the world;" and many other loyal and patriotic toasts.

The Steamer *St. George* has ceased plying for the season; and we are happy to learn that the affairs of the Company to which she belongs exhibit a far more gratifying appearance than it was generally anticipated they would present at the close of the year. The difficulties inseparable from the first establishment of an undertaking of this description, together with the unprecedented depression in business, both here and elsewhere, during the past Summer, have been such as to render this state of things extremely gratifying to all concerned. A full and, we trust, satisfactory statement of the proceedings of the Company will shortly be laid before the public.

On Wednesday evening last, the present Session of the Charlestown Mechanics' Institute was opened with an introductory Lecture by the Hon. Charles Young, President of the Institute. The Lecture was of a practical and useful tendency; but our limited space precludes the possibility of our giving even an outline of its contents. The Institute, we are sorry to learn, is not in that flourishing condition, and does not receive that countenance and support from the public, to which it is so justly entitled. We shall not, however, attempt to assign a reason for the apathy which has been of late manifested, not only by the more talented and influential members of the community, but even by many of those for whose benefit, amusement and instruction the Institute is more particularly designed—although we have our own ideas on the subject. Are the inhabitants of Charlestown so careless, indifferent, or sluggish, as to suffer a useful institution of this description to languish, decay, and, perhaps, ultimately, suspend, if not cease its operations, purely for want of countenance and support? We trust not; and we entertain a hope that, as it has been announced from the Chair that there will be several new Lecturers this season, our fellow townsmen and women will at least pay them the compliment to go and hear them. The Library, we understand, consists of some 400 vols., across which may be obtained for a trifling annual subscription. The Institute is sadly crippled in its usefulness, for want of the necessary philosophical apparatus, which, however, we trust to see supplied ere the commencement of another Session. An Indian and three arrow-heads, all of stone, have been presented to the Institute by a gentleman in New Brunswick, whose name we forget—the whole of which were laid upon the Lecture table, for the inspection of those present. An interesting letter from Mr. Leslie, which accompanied his handsome donation, was read by the President, and excited much attention. Votes of thanks were then passed to the gentlemen who have thus so kindly contributed towards the enrichment of the Museum; and we trust their praiseworthy example will be shortly followed by other contributions of a similar character.

FULLING MILL.—On Tuesday last, the Fulling Mill recently erected by Mr. Gurney, in the vicinity of Charlestown, commenced its operations. This is, we believe, the first and only establishment of the sort which has yet been completed in this Island, although we understand there are several others in course of erection. We wish their enterprising proprietors every success, and rejoice to have it in our power, week after week, to record such repeated and satisfactory proofs of the progress of improvement. We intend paying Mr. Gurney's establishment a visit shortly, and shall then report, for the satisfaction of the public, what useful information we may acquire respecting it.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.—The Roman Catholic Chapel in this Town having been found, for some time past, much too small to accommodate the congregation who steadily worship in that place, the necessity of a spacious and united effort being promptly made to remedy this inconvenience was pointed out by the congregation on Sunday last, by the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, Parish Priest, followed up by an appropriate and forcible appeal, in which the Rev. Gentleman urged upon his hearers the propriety of immediately commencing a subscription towards the object contemplated. This appeal was responded to with a liberality which some of our Protestant brethren would do well occasionally to imitate, the sum of £224 having been subscribed in the course of a single hour. We understand the proposed building is intended to be erected on the site of the present Chapel, and is to be 35 feet long, and 60 feet wide. The estimated cost of its erection is said to be about £1750.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS.—Messrs. HODKINSON & BROTHERS arrived in this town, on Thursday last, from Pictou, and have taken the Room under the Colonial Herald Office, which will be immediately fitted up for their accommodation. The papers speak highly of the performances of these gentlemen.

Two or three literary productions, from some of the latest English periodicals, will be found in our fourth page, which we feel confident, will be perused with satisfaction by all who have the least taste for polite literature. One of these articles is from the pen of MOSES H. PERLEY, Esq., of New Brunswick, and will be remembered, lectured before the Mechanics' Institute in this Town, in the month of June last, on "The early History of the Lower Provinces of British America." The story is exceedingly well told; and the scene being laid so near our own shores, and in a spot no doubt familiar to some of our readers, it is, on that account, peculiarly interesting.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

"A Daniel come to judgment—yea, a Daniel!"

"A second Daniel, a Daniel Jew! Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip."

So, Mr. Editor, the *Islander*—the long talked-of *Islander*—has come out at last; and a pretty *Islander* he is! May we take the liberty of asking, have you really, truly, and in earnest, read the introductory Editorial? If so, then, we assure you 'tis far more than most people have found themselves equal to. What! a leader of no less than two columns and three-quarters!—'tis more than common columns can bear. And pray what is it all about?—You have not read the production—or feel too much startled by its prodigious length to think of doing so—I shall endeavor to tell you. The Editor sets out on his pilgrimage in a truly modest fashion, by styling himself "a promising proselytor of better things!" Now, Sir, when we speak of a proselyting brat, we generally know what the expression signifies. We do not understand that the urchin bids fair to be a burked, drawn or quartered—do we? Oh, no! We understand a promising child to be a creature somewhat of the kidney of this bantling, ycleped the *Islander*—a pretty fellow, Sir, and one that must take with the natives, you know; howbeit, I rather suspect that neither the Editor representative nor the Publisher acknowledged, can lay the least claim whatever to the appellation.

Thus much for the exordium. Now for the context. We are informed by this luminary of the fourth estate, that the *Islander* Press has hitherto neither possessed or laid claim to any kind of influence in the community, and that it has consequently been of no utility—in short, no press at all. We decided—on an astounding announcement, certainly!—that Editor, before proceeding further, I would put in question, one else, would solve, for I cannot. What does the *Islander* desire to say when speaking of "The anomalous and IMPRACTICABLE association of countries, creeds and tongues, learning, half learning, and no learning," and all that regular role which follows, about "impugning by questions," and so forth?