

THE EXAMINER

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

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

Vol. X.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Tuesday, June 26, 1860.

New Series.—No. 24

Literature.

HOW STRANGE IT WILL BE.

How strange it will be, love—how strange when we two
Shall be what all lovers become—
You, frigid and faithless—cold and untrue—
You thoughtless of me, and I careless of you—
Our pet names grown rusty with nothing to do—
Love's bright web unravelled, and rent and worn thro',
And life's loom left empty—a hum!
Ah me,
How strange it will be.

How strange it will be when the witchery goes,
Which makes me seem lovely to-day;
When your thought of me loses its colour de rose—
When every day serves some new fault to disclose,
And wonder you could for a moment suppose
I was out of the common-place way—
Ah me,
How strange it will be!

How strange it will be, love—how strange when we meet
With just a cold touch of the hand!
When my pulses no longer delightedly beat
At the thought of your coming, the sound of your feet;
When your dear loving voice, now so thrillingly sweet,
Grows harsh in reproach or command—
Ah me,
How strange it will be!

How strange it will be, when we willingly stay
Divided the weary day through!
Or, getting remotely apart as we may,
Sit chilly and silent, with nothing to say,
Or coolly converse on the news of the day
In a wearisome, old married-folks sort of way!
I shrink from the picture—don't you?
Ah me,
How strange it will be!

Dear love, if our hearts do grow torpid and old,
As so many others have done,
If we let our love perish with hunger and cold—
If we dim all life's diamonds and tarnish its gold—
If we chafe to live wretched and die unconsol'd,
'Twill be the strangest of all things that ever was told!
As happening under the sun!
Ah me!
How strange it will be!

GRAY HAIRS.

BY MRS. L. H. SPOONER.

Gray hairs!—I marvel why they strike
Such terror and dismay,
No mark of wickedness or shame
Or foul disgrace are they.
As silently as summer dews
Steal o'er the cradle down,
They weave their sparkling silver threads
In with the black or brown.

Gray hairs—the waning beauty shrinks
Before her mirror's ray,
And loath the hush of the bed
Uprooted from its place.
Oh, lady, stay that lily hand,
If one such guest should fall,
They say a dozen more will come
To attend the funeral.

Gray hairs!—I saw the Queen of France
Arrayed in regal state,
Receive the elite of the land,
The titled and the great,
And while her dignity and grace
Were praised by every tongue,
The long, white ringlets o'er her brow
In fearless clusters hung.

Gray hairs!—when sprinkled here and there
In beard and whiskers too,
Inspire respect and confidence
More than the youthful hue.
Of knowledge of mankind they tell,
Perchance of serious thought,
And loss at the expensive school
Of sage Experience taught.

Gray hairs!—I think them beautiful
Around the ancient face;
Like pure unsullied snows that lend
The wintry landscape grace;
When in wisdom's way they crown
With wealth's exhaustless store,
A prelude to that home of joy
Where change is known no more.

A DIVER'S EXPERIENCE—SENSATIONS AND SIGHTS UNDER WATER.

Of the various methods resorted to by men to obtain a livelihood, one of the most unattractive would seem to be that of diving, even where godly pearls reward the diver for the great exposure of his life, yet the practice is almost as old as history, and the art of searching in deep waters for concealed treasures has a charm in it sufficient to overcome, in minds of a bold and adventurous nature, the aversion with which it is generally regarded. Exciting and novel experiences characterize the life of the diver, and if these ambitious individuals would communicate to the world the varied incidents of their submarine lives, not only would their books prove very interesting reading, but our stock of knowledge concerning "life beneath the waters" would be vastly increased. In pursuit of the hazardous profession of divers, our countrymen have obtained a distinguished pre-eminence, as evinced by the success of the company now engaged in raising the sunken Russian frigates in the harbor of Sebastopol, and by the exploits of Mr. J. B. Green. Mr. Green, who has become a cripple in consequence of imprudent exposure while diving on Lake Erie, has published a narrative of his experience as a diver, which contains many interesting facts, and is worthy the attention of all who would add to their store of information on aqueous matters. Mr. Green's pamphlet is entitled, "Diving with and without Armor," and from it we gather that he early possessed a love for the water, and could swim and dive with uncommon ease, and the success he met with at Oswego, N. Y., one day in diving for some trifling articles which had been lost overboard, led him to attempt diving and submarine wrecking as a profession—a profession as he found it a very lucrative one. For several years he followed the business without the use of armor, going to a depth of forty-two feet, and remaining at times three minutes under water. During this period he not only recovered a large amount of property in and about the harbor of Oswego, but also many persons. On one occasion he was successful in quickly recovering the body of a young lady who fell overboard from a steambot, so that she was resuscitated, and he received from the joyous father a reward of five hundred dollars. In this connection Mr. Green states that in almost every case where he went down after bodies that did not rise, he found them clinging to some object at the bottom. Although the human body sinks readily when decomposition commences. The gases which it contains gradually expand the body in the water, and becoming lighter than the water it begins to rise. The limbs, and especially the legs, do not expand so much in proportion as the trunk, and therefore incline the body in the water until it assumes an almost vertical posture. Says Mr. Green, "It is a sight as timid souls would quake to look upon—to see a corpse standing upright deep beneath the water's surface, with its slinky eye, swollen, glassy eyes, and rooking mouth, and from every tiny pore of the body a stream of gas issues, and the specter of the vast deep."
Mr. Green first saw and used armor for diving in the year 1852, on Lake Erie, where he met a party of divers who were exploring a sunken steamer. He adopted the use of

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NEW MARKET HOUSE.

(Continued.)

THURSDAY, April 5, 1860.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—But if it were found necessary to permit such nuisances in the heart of an old and overgrown city like London, it surely was not necessary that such a nuisance should be established and perpetuated, by law, in so small a city as Charlottetown, and which afforded a choice of eligible and unobjectionable situations for a market, without any invasion or lessening of the rights of the people to the public squares for purposes of exercise, health, and ornament. The argument of his Honor (Col. Swabey) based on the existence of large Markets in the most populous districts of the old and extensive cities of Europe, was of but little worth. He (the Hon. Mr. Palmer) thought the measure was not too far gone to prevent their Honors pursuing such a course, with respect to it, as would entitle them to the grateful respect of their descendants,—the preserving of Queen Square from further misappropriation, in obedience to the dictates of common sense and common prudence, and from a regard to cleanliness and to the health and recreation of the citizens in general, and, in that respect, even for the benefit of those who clamored for the permanent establishment of a general public Market upon Queen Square. There were several places, any one of which, if selected for the site of the proposed new Market-house, would afford as great facilities and conveniences for the holding of a general public Market thereon as Queen Square; and, although it was his wish to preserve all the public squares for purposes of public health, exercise, and pleasure alone, for which purposes they were originally intended, he could not but view with some degree of favor the proposition for the erection of the proposed new Market-house upon Hillsborough Square. If considerations of economy had really had anything to do with the desire of those who wished to see it placed upon Queen Square—had not considerations of a quite different character biased and warped their judgment—when they saw that the objection raised by them to the placing of it anywhere except upon Queen Square, because the country could not afford to purchase a site for it, was not rendered of no weight by the subscription list accompanying the recommendation or request that it might be placed on Hillsborough Square, they would at once have seen and have acknowledged that the placing of it upon that square would be less objectionable than placing it on Queen Square; and that, for that sole object, it would be, if they had placed it upon Queen Square, the chief and most valuable square of the city. And not only was a site upon Hillsborough Square offered for the purpose; but also another site upon the water's edge, in every way suitable and in the possession of the Government, was pointed out as attainable without difficulty, and as being easily prepared at a small outlay of money for the required building. And then again there was the Stewart property on the hill, and a plot-plot from the proposed site on Queen Square, which could be obtained at a reasonable rate; and if that should not be found or thought sufficient for the purpose, the property adjoining it was also in the market, advertised for sale, and could, he had reason to know, be also obtained at a like reasonable rate with the other; and he could not think that the country would find fault with the outlay of as much money as would be required for the purchase of the two properties.

His Honor the PRESIDENT—Did his Honor mean out of the revenue?
Hon. Mr. PALMER hoped their Honors did not believe that, because country members were opposed to granting, or reluctant to grant, anything out of the general revenue for the purchasing of a site for a new Market-house, the country would be opposed to it, if they found that, in consequence of the refusal of such a grant by their representatives, the much required erection was likely to be deferred from year to year, to their yearly increasing inconvenience. If matters respecting the Market were to be left as they then were, and the question concerning it were to be referred to the people, they would, he doubted not, express themselves in such a manner as would justify their representatives in agreeing to a grant sufficient to purchase a site, in an unobjectionable situation, for a new Market-house; and should they then refuse to make it, they would have their constituents about their ears to some effect. He had merely risen to state his reasons for objecting to the placing of the Market-house upon Queen Square, the agreeing to which, by the Legislature he regarded as a melancholy fact, a blot upon the taste of the Colony; but he entertained no hope that anything he could say against it would induce a change of opinion on the part of any of their Honors. The question had been decided out of doors by a portion—a small portion—of the inhabitants of Charlottetown. The inhabitants of the country had not been consulted; and, of others, many of those who had been induced to sanction the proposed invasion of public rights in Queen Square, had been, he believed, wheedled and deceived into compliance. For himself, however, he would have the satisfaction of entering his protest against the passage of the Bill: the satisfaction to know that, thereby, when his bones should be soft in the grave, it would be seen by posterity that one native of the Island, at least, had strongly opposed the intended desecration of the square. It remained for those who had resolved to support the Bill as it stood to justify their resolve to the country as they best could. For himself, he would take no further trouble about it. He had consulted his own private interest and convenience, he would have been in favor of placing the Market-house upon Queen Square: there the Market would be nearer to him for the purchase of meat; and his clients from the country, attending the Market for the sale of their provisions, would be brought nearer to his office. However, would the placing of the Market-house there have been ten times more advantageous to him, he would have thought himself destitute of public principle had he concurred therein.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—The west end of Queen Square was the proper site for the Market-house. Since the question had been agitated he had seen hundreds of the country people, and they had assured him that they would sooner hawk their produce and other Market wares through the streets, from door to door, than attend the Market-house, should it be placed lower down the town than Queen Square. As to what his Honor the Leader of the Government, Mr. Palmer, had said about his clients finding it more convenient to get to his office if the Market were to continue to be held on Queen Square, than they would do should it be removed to another quarter of the town, his Honor (Mr. Hutchinson) said, that the generality of litigants knew the value of a good lawyer, and, when in pursuit of one, would find him out, wheresoever his residence or his office might be located. But the case was very different as respected shop-keepers and tradesmen; the extent of their business was, in a very great measure, dependent upon the number of people which, through other and more pressing inducements than the necessity of procuring at merchants' or tradesmen's stores, frequented the locality in which they had established themselves; and should the City Market be removed from Queen Square to some other part of the City, the removal would be very detrimental to the interests of those merchants and tradesmen who had so long carried on business in the immediate neighborhood thereof. It would indeed injure many who, like himself, had struggled hard to build their houses and get into business. Yes, it would not only greatly diminish the amount of their business, but it would, very likely, in some cases, actually put a stop to it; and, as to those whose property was already mortgaged or encumbered, the consequence would, very probably be, that such property would pass from them, and they would be ruined. They who had petitioned the Legislature to have the Market-house placed at the other

end of the town, were undoubtedly influenced, as respected the prayer of their petition on that head, solely by a consideration of their own peculiar interests. By a regard for their own interests especially almost all men were naturally influenced, and when such regard was not, with respect to any public question, urged to the prejudice of preferable interests and vested rights, upon those whose immediate province it was to decide thereon, it might, no doubt, often be found justly entitled, on public grounds, to the most favorable consideration. But when vested rights and interests, harmonizing with those of the public, came to be put in competition with those which were only prospective, and had, in fact, to be created, reason and justice would, he thought, dispose independent men to give their voice in favor of the former. As respected the petition which was supported by a subscription list to the amount of between £1,400 and £1,500, he looked upon it as little better than an attempt to bribe their Honors, by a bag of money, to decide in favor of the petitioners. But he hoped and trusted that their Honors, with every respect to the pending question, as well as with respect to every other which might come before them, would submit to no influences but those of strict justice and right reason.

His Honor the PRESIDENT—He did not wish to give exactly a silent vote. The matter had been one of serious deliberation in Charlottetown; and, if put to the vote of the inhabitants generally, a large majority, he was fully persuaded, would be found to be in favor of having the Market-house placed on the west end of Queen Square, as by the Bill before their Honors it was proposed it should be; and in the other House a large majority, including the leading members, had decided in favor of the Bill as it then stood. The public question then under their Honors' consideration was certainly one respecting which it was their duty to defer to general opinion. They ought to look to and be influenced by a just regard for the general interests of the inhabitants of Charlottetown and of the neighborhood; for, whatever interest the rest of the country had in the matter, it was much less immediate and much less in amount than that of the people of Charlottetown and the neighborhood; and they—doubtless the best judges of what would be most for their convenience and advantage,—having decided in favor of the west end of Queen Square, as a site for the proposed new Market-house, he hoped their Honors would, as the other House had already done, acquiesce in the propriety of that decision. Indeed, should they gain any public opinion, and refuse their assent to the Bill as it then stood,—appropriating, as it did, a part of the west end of Queen Square, as a site for a new Market-house, it was very questionable whether they would be able to procure any site at all for such a purpose. His Honor, after having in very strong terms denounced the ordinary state of those portions of Queen Square immediately surrounding the Market-house, declaring their general condition to be a disgrace, not only to the city but to the country at large; and after having asserted the absolute necessity which existed for a wholesome improvement and well-arranged extension of public Market conveniences in the city; at the same time giving it as his opinion that, even should the eligibility of the Water Lots in front of Town Lots Nos. 21 and 22, for the site of a public Market, were to be admitted, it would be impossible, as respected public resources, to procure their appropriation to that purpose, for he felt convinced that, to convert those lots into a level and firm foundation for a building suitable for the purposes of a public Market, would require an outlay of £1500 or £1600—a sum which, for such a purpose, could not be by any possibility be procured,—said that a new Market-house of proper construction, erected upon a portion of the west end of Queen Square, would rather be an ornament than a disfigurement to the Square; that, under proper regulations, the holding of the public Market thereon would, instead of being a nuisance, be a public convenience of the greatest importance; and that, for 50 years to come, if properly conducted, it would never be found productive of any injurious effects to the health of the population.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON said that, whilst he adhered to the opinions, with respect to the question then before their Honors, which he had expressed when it was first mooted in the House, he would confess that he felt himself a little more embarrassed concerning it than when he first rose to speak with reference to it. He could not but admit the justice of the remarks which had been made relative to the depreciation of property surrounding Queen Square, and in its immediate vicinity, should the Market be removed from it. Still, however, although he knew his doing so would be useless, he could not, in justice to himself, refrain from again insisting upon the very great and very evident impropriety of further diminishing the already too much diminished open area of Queen Square by the erection thereon of a new Market-house. That square, and other public squares, should be preserved free and open in all respects, as ventilators or lungs for the preservation and circulation of pure air, and as breaks or interruptions to the progress of conflagration in cases of fire, so very likely to arise in a town nearly the whole of the houses of which were chiefly composed of wood.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY—He had given the question much consideration, and the conclusion at which he had arrived was, that, if the public Market were to be removed from Queen Square, the doing so would not only be an act highly injurious—in some cases, perhaps, ruinous—to the interests of those who owned property or who carried on business around the Square; but it would be an act of injustice to the people from the country as well; for, were the unoccupied portions of Queen Square to be reserved for purposes solely ornamental, they (the country people), on coming to town, would find themselves shut out from and denied the exercise of common rights and privileges upon the most conspicuous portion of public property in Charlottetown. Now, said his Honor, a countryman does not know that he is in Charlottetown until he gets into the Market-square; and, if he is to be excluded from it, it will appear to him almost as if he were quite shut out of the city.

Hon. Mr. BAGNALL—He was perfectly disinterested in all that concerned the question, and had no special interests to serve in voting either against the Bill or for it. It did not appear to him to be so much a question of to-day, as it was one with respect to the future; for, wise and proper, as to him it appeared to be, that Queen Square should, for purposes of health, exercise, and ornament, be kept free from further encroachments, either by the erection of new buildings, or by the enlargement of those already erected thereon, the wisdom and propriety of making such a reservation of it would, when the city should have increased (as it certainly would) in magnitude and population, be still more evident, whether it should then be practically acknowledged or not; and as it should then be decided, in the one way or the other, so would posterity have reason to applaud the wisdom, foresight, taste, and independence of their ancestral legislators, or have cause to blush for their blind and selfish stupidity.

[NOTE. As it is now become absolutely necessary that the Reporter should, as far as possible, confine himself,—as to what yet remains unpublished of the debates and proceedings of the Legislative Council,—to a simple expression, or mere indication of the views and sentiments of their Honors, individually, on questions debated or discussed by them; in order that such views and sentiments may be published before, from issue of time, the public generally shall have ceased to take an interest in them: he (the Reporter) has felt himself obliged to condense this debate into limits much narrower than those which he has assigned to any previous debate of the Session; and to still narrower,—although he trusts in a satisfactory manner,—must he confine those upon which he has not yet entered.

With respect to the foregoing debate, it is, he thinks, now only necessary for him, after the above statement, to observe, that their Honors Colonel Swabey, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Palmer, Mr. McIntyre, and his Honor the President, all again severally spoke to the question; each reasserting, with some additional argument, the opinions relative thereto which he had previously expressed. His Honor Mr. Palmer, in particular, spoke at considerable length and with great earnestness in support of the views which he had previously expressed; but, as, in the protest against the Bill, which he had subsequently recorded on the Journal of the House, his Honor has distinctly and strongly

set forth his objections to the appropriation of any part of Queen Square for the purpose of a public Market, the Reporter trusts his Honor will not think he sustains any injustice, with respect to the publication of his opinions, by having the public, without a further extension of time, finally referred to them as summed up in his Protest. With respect to others of their Honors, whose opinions on the same question have, in the present report, been very much condensed, the Reporter hopes that they will freely pardon him for such condensation; convinced, as, on reflection they must be, of its necessity, and besides, remembering that, in the report of the debate which took place, (Thursday, 8th March, 1860), on the presentation to the House, by his Honor Mr. Palmer, of the Memorial of the Mayor and Common Council, relative to the erection of a new Market-house, the individual opinions of their Honors were given with much care and fulness.]

The Order of the day was for the second reading of the Bill to authorize the City of Charlottetown to appropriate a certain piece of land as a site for a public Market-house; and the same having been read, and a motion having been made that the House go into the order of the day, a debate thereon, as in condensed form, above given, ensued.

On the conclusion of the debate, his Honor Mr. Palmer moved, in amendment, that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed until next Session; and that in the mean time it be published in the Royal Gazette and Examiner newspapers, respectively, for public information. The question of concurrence having been put thereon, the House divided:—

CONTENTS.—Hon. Mr. Bagnall, Hon. Mr. Johnson, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Simpson.—4.

NON-CONTENTS.—His Honor the President, Hon. Colonel Swabey, Hon. Mr. Walker, Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, Hon. Mr. McIntyre.—5.

The question of concurrence on the original motion having been put, the House again divided:—

CONTENTS.—His Honor the President, Hon. Col. Swabey, Hon. Mr. Walker, Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, Hon. Mr. McIntyre.—5.

NON-CONTENTS.—Hon. Mr. Bagnall, Hon. Mr. Johnson, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Simpson.—4.

And it passed in the negative.

The question of concurrence on the original motion having been put, the House again divided:—

CONTENTS.—His Honor the President, Hon. Col. Swabey, Hon. Mr. Walker, Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, Hon. Mr. McIntyre.—5.

NON-CONTENTS.—Hon. Mr. Bagnall, Hon. Mr. Johnson, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Simpson.—4.

And it was resolved in the affirmative, and the Bill thereupon read a second time.

The House then went into Committee on the said Bill; and, after having sat some time thereon the House resumed, and his Honor Colonel Swabey reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and had agreed to it without any amendment.

A motion having been made, that the Report of the Committee be received, his Honor the President having observed that he doubted whether His Excellency would assent to the Bill without a suspending clause, a short discussion ensued, on the termination of which, his Honor Mr. Palmer moved that the following Section be added to the Bill:

"Nothing herein contained shall have any force or effect until Her Majesty's pleasure therein shall be known."

The question of concurrence having been put thereon, the House divided:—

CONTENTS.—Hon. Mr. Bagnall, Hon. Mr. Johnson, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Simpson.—4.

NON-CONTENTS.—His Honor the President, Hon. Colonel Swabey, Hon. Mr. Walker, Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, Hon. Mr. McIntyre.—5.

And it passed in the negative.

The question of concurrence on the original motion having been put, it was resolved in the affirmative, and ordered accordingly.

On motion, that the Public Market House Bill be now read the third time—

Hon. Mr. Bagnall moved, in amendment to the motion, to insert on the word "now," and at the end of the question insert "this day three months."

And the question of concurrence having been put thereon, the House divided as on the above last previous division. So it passed in the negative; and the Bill having been read the third time accordingly, it was passed.

MONDAY, April 9, 1860.

His Honor Mr. Palmer, not having been present when this Bill was passed by the Legislative Council, on Saturday, and having most strenuously opposed its progress throughout its previous stages,—claiming the privilege of recording his protest against it, as having previously, whilst the Bill was under discussion, intimated to the House his intention to do so; and his claim to such privilege having been acquiesced in by the Hon. Mr. Bagnall, in the House, which, under this date, is recorded upon the Journal of the House.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON expressed a strong desire to enter a similar protest, or to unite with the Hon. Mr. Palmer in his; but as he had not, whilst the Bill was under discussion, intimated any intention of recording a protest against it, the House decided that such privilege could not, consistently with a due regard to the strict and equal mode of proceeding in such cases, be conceded to him; and it was accordingly withheld.

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, April 16

COMMITTEE ON WATER PRIVILEGES.

The House in Committee on the subject of granting water privileges. Petitions and correspondence on the subject having been read—

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND explained that it rested with the House to take such action as they thought fit in the matter, which was of great importance, as affecting the rights of owners of lands fronting on navigable rivers, to erect wharfs or breakwaters in front of their properties. Grave doubts were entertained as to the right to license such erections. Summerville was the only locality where it had been done; but the principle involved affected the country generally. A question had occurred in the district represented by the Hon. Mr. Bagnall, and Longworth, and petitions had been presented to the House expressive of the dissatisfaction of the settlers at the alleged interference with their privileges. Whatever were essential to the mercantile progress of a country, and it was necessary for the Legislature to decide what powers should be given to the owners of water fronts. The question was not invested with a party character. A Committee of the House had given it as his opinion that the sanction of the Legislature was necessary for the action of Government.

Mr. MONTGOMERY asked if it were intended to give a general authority, or to limit it to the vicinity of towns. Country localities might be seriously inconvenienced by wharves being run out into the rivers so low water mark, as they would prevent the farmers collecting sea manure.

Mr. BEER saw no objection to granting the privilege of erecting wharves in the country, which could be constructed with open spaces, so as to admit boats to pass under to gather seaweed, or for any other purpose. He was in favor of sanctioning the wharf at Rustico, which formed the subject of some of the petitions, if it were built so as not to interfere with the navigation, by preventing the collection of sea manure. At Summerville there was already a long wharf, than which no greater obstruction to the free navigation of the space between high and low water mark could be constructed, and, therefore, he saw no harm in allowing erections of a similar character in that particular locality. In other parts of the country the case was widely different.

Hon. Mr. COLES—The question for the House to decide was, not the particular situation of Summerville, but whether the public had or had not the right freely to use the space between high and low water marks, for the collection of seaweed, or for any other purpose. If it was admitted that they had, the Government had the right to grant sites for the erection of wharves any where. The right to all below the high water mark was vested in the public, and the wharves in Charlottetown below that mark had been built on land specially granted by the Crown, which right had been transferred to the Assembly by the Civil List Bill. He hoped the question, as far as it related to Summerville, would be settled in a way, which would be beneficial to the petitioners, if it had reserved the rights of the public to the free access to the side of the public wharves, that no obstruction should be presented to the approach of vessels to discharge or receive freight, or to be repaired. Parties had applied for a licence of occupation of the space he alluded to, but the Government required a plan, in order that they might judge of the necessary restrictions to be put on the licence.

Hon. Col. GRAY, while opposed to granting to individuals privileges which might interfere with the general rights of the public at large, admitted that towns had claims to which other parts of the Island could lay no claim. He had understood that the late Government had made divisions between individuals in their action on this matter. The Hon. Mr. Wightman, he believed, had been allowed to build a wharf