HORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN WALWORTH, ENGLAND.—FOUR PERSONS MURDERED.

Four fearful murders were committed on Tuesday morning, the 31st, at No. 16, Manor-place, Walworth-road, London Shortly after six o'clock, Mr. Bevan, the landlord of the house, heard what he described as a "lumbering" noise overhead, such as might have been caused by children running about. A slight scream followed, and he went upstairs, when he found some dead bodies on the landing. The alarm was given, and several police-officers entered. The landing was saturated with blood, which had scarcely coagulated, and lying in the midst of it were three bodies, fearfully mutilated. The first was found to be that of a boy about six years of age, lying on his back with his head towards the stairs. The next body was that of a young female in her night dress; lying on her right side, and partially resting upon her was the body of an elderly female. Mr. Inspector Dann was then informed that a young man the son of the elderly female, was on that storey, and on stepping over the bodies, he saw a man, about 25 years of age, standing perfectly quite indifferent to the horrible scene around him. Inspector Dann told him that he must take him into custody, when the young man made the following remarks:—"I was in bed with my brother, when mother came up to the bedside with a knife, and killed my brother, who was sleeping with me, then she made a stab at me, and I wrested the knife from her and killed her in self-defence." The young man was then taken into custody, and Inspector Dann proceeded into the back room on the same landing, and discovered a fourth body, that of a boy about eleven years of age lying in bed weltering in blood

The supposed murderer is named William Godfrey Youngman aged 25 years; and the victims are Mary Youngman, the mother of the prisoner, aged about 50; Thomas Youngman, aged 11; Charles Youngman, aged six (his brother); and Mary Wells Streeter, aged 27 a young woman to whom the prisoner, it is said, was to be married that morning. Miss Streeter was the daughter of Mr. Streeter, a farmer, of Hunter's hill, Woodhurst, Sussex. The prisoner has been residing away from the other members of the family, but returned to them a week or ten days since, and mentioned to some other persons who lived in the house that he had been a footman, but not liking that occupation, he intended going into the farming business. He is described as having been quiet and steady in his habits. On Monday night he brought home with him Miss Streeter, who slept with his mother, the prisoner sleeping with the elder of the two boys. Between the bodies of Mrs. Youngman and Miss Streeter was found a large Spanish dagger clasp-knife, with a patent back spring. The knife, which was completely incrusted in blood, is about 10 inches long in the blade, with a cross guard. About an eighth of an inch of the point of the dagger was broken off, as also a portion of the guard. This fact is no doubt to be accounted for by the frightful wound received by the younger child, the bone or vertebræ of whose neck was completely cut through, the head only remaining on the trunk by a portion of the flesh; and this poor child has also received a stab in the left breast. The body of the other child also bore similar wounds. The prisoner's mother had received a stab in the breast, her throat being principally cut behind one of the ears. The fourth victim, Miss Streeter had likewise a dreadful stab in the breast, her throat being also perfectly cut from ear to ear. It is supposed that the prisoner, soon after his father left the house for his usual occupation, killed first the brother, with whom he was sleeping, that the noise alarmed Miss Streeter, and that she ran from one room across the landing to the other door, where she was met by the prisoner and immediately stabbed. The mother, it is surmised, followed her immediately, which supposition is borne out by the fact that her body was partially resting upon that of Miss Streeter. The other boy no doubt left last, and seeing what had been done, endeavoured to escape by running down stairs, but must have been caught by the murderer, thrown backwards and thus butchered.

The prisoner was charged at the Lambeth Police-court with the four murders on Tuesday, the 31st ult. While Mr. Bevan was under examination, the prisoner asked him whether he did not hear him call out "murder," to which he replied that he did not. A police-officer, named Varney, deposed that on going up stairs he saw the prisoner standing on the landing, having his night dress on, and his hands smeared with blood The prisoner said—"Here's a sight—what shall I do?" The prisoner during the examination of the witness asked him whether he was sure that he used those words. The officer said he was quite sure of it, and that the prisoner said in addition, "My mother has done all this—I own that I struck her, but it was in self-defence."

The prisoner, who appeared agitated at this time, stated to the officer that his mother had murdered the young woman and the boy, and would have murdered him if he had not struck her. On looking at his hands and arms, the officer found that the wristband of one of his shirt sleeves had been torn off, and on being asked where it was, he said he did not know. The police-officer found on the landing the young woman (Streeter) the second boy, and the mother, whose head was in one of the rooms and her legs on the landing—all dead. On going into the front room he found the elder boy on a bed with his throat cut. He was dead, but the body was warmer than the others. The bed was saturated with blood. The prisoner, before he was removed from the house, was asked whether the body of the young woman was lying on the landing at the time his mother struck him, and he replied, after some hesitation, that he did not know. The prisoner, who said that he had nothing to add to what he had already stated, namely, that what he had done was in self-defence, was remanded until Tuesday, the 7th, when he will be formally committed for trial.

Since the reception in gaol of the young man who is charged with murdering his mother, two brothers, and sweetheart, he has maintained the same defence as when before the magistrates. His mother did not like his intended marriage, and out of revenge had murdered his intended, and for fear of being found out had murdered his two brothers, and would no doubt have assassinated him, and then have committed suicide, leaving her husband to suffer when he returned home for allowing the unfortunate young woman, Mary Wells Streeter, to stay in the house pending the marriage. He had no doubt but he was the moving instrument in causing her death, but if he had not done what he did he also would have been killed. It is commonly said that the prisoner, if he really committed the murders, must have been mad at the time, but those who have him in custody say that his conversation is anything but like that which is expected from a madman. There is only one sign approximating to the semblance of insanity, which is the coolness displayed by him, as if nothing had happened in his family.

The coroner opened an enquiry on the 2nd. The landlord and landlady of the house in which the murders were committed, a lodger, the constables who apprehended the accused, his father, and the father of Miss Streeter were examined, but their evidence threw no additional light upon the matter, and no motive was assigned for the commission of the crime. The further investigation was adjourned until the 6th.

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. MULLOCK,

BISHOP OF ST. JOHN'S, N. F.

(*Continued.*)

These days passed away. Constantine invokes Christ; and the Roman Emperor, from being the persecutor, becomes the protector of the Church. The Popes now forsake the Catacombs, and are enthroned in the Lateran palace; the ashes of the Apostles are enshrined in the Vatican; and it appears that Peter and Cæsar cannot dwell together in the same city. Constantine forsakes Rome, and transfers the seat of empire to the shores of the Bosphorous, to Byzantium, now called Constantinople. The Popes remain as the guardians of Rome. They do not follow the Emperors. They watch by the tombs of the Apostles. The vices of ages have now undermined the colossal empire. The huge statue of iron has feet of clay; the blood of the saints is to be avenged; and God calls from the forests of the North the ministers of his vengeance. Thus then, the Popes become the fathers of their people. The Byzantine Emperors forsake the Romans in their distress. St. Leo goes forth to meet Attilla, and divinely protected by St. Peter and St. Paul, disarms the vengeance of the barbarian conqueror, and save Rome. The gratitude of the Roman people soon made their father their sovereign. The Lombards attacked the Holy City, and the Popes summoned the Franks to their aid, and rewarded their fidelity to the Holy See by conferring the Imperial Crown of the Western Empire on the great Charlemagne.

All along, during the dark period of what are called the Iron Ages and the Middle Ages, the Popes faithfully discharged, amidst many, and, to all appearance, insuperable difficulties, the duty of fathers, of civilizers, of protectors of princes and people. You always find the Popes on the side of justice—on the side of liberty—on the side of the weak people when they require to be protected from the tyranny of their wicked sovereigns. When many times their wicked princes broke through every clause of their coronation oath—abused the power they received from God through the people, to crush the poor and weak, instead of protecting them—to tyrannize instead of to rule—they appealed to the Pope, the common father of both king and people. The Popes, in that case after exhorting the sovereign to discharge his duty to God and to his subjects, and finding that he was using his power for the destruction of his people at length declared the bonds of allegiance severed, and told the people they were not bound to obey their tyrant any more—just what people now do without any guide, but through the bloody means of a revolution.

To show how Rome depends entirely on the Pope, we have only to look on the state of the City during the seventy years when the Popes, on account of the rebellions of the Roman barons and people, and other causes, resided in Avignon. The City dwindled down to a mere little country town, perishing among the ruins of its pagan and Christian edifices. In more modern times, while Pius VII. was in captivity under Napoleon the First, and Rome became the second City of the French Empire, notwithstanding all that Imperial power could do, the population of the City dwindled at the rate of nearly 10,000 a year.

In fact, Rome has no resources for the seat of a great population, unless as the capital of an Empire, spiritual or temporal. It is seated in an extensive plain of over 300,000 acres, between the lower Appenines and the sea. The muddy waters of the Tiber rush through it, amidst the ruins of the ancient, and the buildings of the modern City. A fearful plague of malaria, or bad air, desolates during summer the entire plain since the days of the Empire; and this was fearfully increased during the destruction of Rome by the barbarians, by destroying the aqueducts, and by allowing the soil to become in many places marshy. The whole Campagna, as it is called, is let out, with little exception, in large Grazing and Stock Farms—the only profitable employment that can be followed, as one night's sleep in the open air, or even in a house in the Campagna in summer, would be followed by a severe fever, and most probably death. Seated, therefore, in the midst of this desolate looking place, the Queen of Nations occupies seven low hills, and the intervening plain, the ancient Campus Martius, where the bulk of the population—about 180,000—now reside.

From all points of view the stupendous dome of St. Peter's meets the eye—the greatest building in size, and the richest in materials and works of art ever raised by human hands. Over three hundred Churches, many of them of enormous size, all of them adorned with the richest marbles, painting, statuary and gilding, ornament the Capital of the Christian World. The palaces of the noble Roman families are more like royal residences than ordinary mansions; and few of the Sovereigns of Europe are better lodged than the Roman nobles.

The people are happy in material advantages. The wealth spent by strangers—the money left for works of art, and the cheapness of living—make life easy. There is too much charity, too many hospitals for every disease, and too many asylums for poverty and misfortune, to please political economists. Education is most extensively diffused. There are—I assert fearlessly—more schools, primary and secondary, in Rome, than in any other city of the same population in the world. High education is provided for by two Universities; and there are several others, four or five, in the Papal States. I can appeal to an authority which even the adversaries of the Popedom will be obliged to admit, for the state of education—that is, the Presbyterian traveller Lang, who says that Rome is far better provided with even primary schools than Berlin, the School City of the Protestants *par excellence*.

Education is perfectly gratuitous. The son of the poorest man may qualify himself for any of the liberal professions; and my own opinion is, that the facility for entering into professional life is rather injurious than serviceable to the country; for the professions, being overstocked by people who should have some other way of living, are, in many instances, but hot-beds of revolutionists—anxious for any change that may give them a Government employment, as at present they cannot obtain either clients or patients.

I now approach the knotty question of the Government. I must first premise, that I believe that if the Papal States were governed by a lay Sovereign, that so far from hearing the complaints we do, from the English press and the French infidel press, they would be held up as a model to most of the nations of Europe for individual liberty, light taxation and the general comfort of the people. I do not mean to say that there is no reform required. The greatest reformer of the age is Pius IX., who, if permitted by the infidel scoundrels he pardoned to proceed with the necessary reforms, would have rendered the Papal States as perfect in Government as anything human can be.

Perhaps it would not be out of the way, as a preface to the disquisition on the form of Government, to say something about the Sovereign himself. Born in his own States, some sixty odd years ago, of the noble house of Mastai, the present Pope received, of course, the best education that Italy could afford. In his youth he wished to follow the profession of arms, if it can be called so, by becoming one of the Pope's noble guard. Difficulties, principally on account of his health, intervened, and at the suggestion of the venerable Pontiff and Confessor of the Faith, Pius VII., he embraced the ecclesiastical state. Shortly after we find him as an Ecclesiastical Attache to a Nuncio sent to Chili, in South America, where he not only discharged most loyally and honorably the duties connected with his diplomatic situation, but also laboured as a simple Missionary. Returning, he was nominated Chaplain and Director of the great charitable Institution of St. Michael's Hospital in Rome—one of those lasting monuments of Papal charity not to be found in any other portion of the world—comprising orphanages, male and female, hospitals, schools, manufactories, and artistic establishments,—in fact, a City of Charity. In this congenial situation he remained until he was appointed Archbishop of Spoleto; and after remaining there some time, he was transferred to the more important See of Imola though a simple Bishoprick, and elevated to the Cardinalship. On the death of Gregory XVI., after a conclave of less than two days—one of the shortest upon record—John Mastai was elected Pope, and took the name of Pius IX. Previously he was known as a most zealous Priest and indefatigable Bishop—the promoter of every good work. He spent every farthing of his ample revenues in works of charity and education—the establishment of Educational Convents, Sisters of Charity, Orphan Asylums, and similar institutions. He was also well known for his liberal tendencies; and if he erred at all, it was in judging of others as he judged of himself. He expected that men without faith, honor, or honesty, would be satisfied with the reforms they demanded; whereas their clamours were only intended to stir up the people to revolt, that they might profit by it.

How often have I seen the venerable Pontiff, in the beginning—or brewing, as I may call it—of the Revolution of 1848, blessing those who were plotting his destruction—smiling on those traitors, who, in a few days after, brought a loaded cannon to the gate of his palace, fired into his windows, and shot his Secretary, Abbati Palma; but even then singing loud Hosannas for him, crying out, like Judas, Hail Rabbi! while selling him—calling him blessed in the name of the Lord, and a few days after crying out, not him, but Barabbas—not Pius, the Vicar of Christ, but Mazzini, the man of the dagger. He called one of the most liberal men in Italy to his counsels, a layman too—Count Rossi—a man of honour. He was faithful to his Sovereign, and therefore he was stabbed on the very threshold of the Legislature; and the act—instead of filling the legislators with horror, and arousing them to vindicate their own honour and the sacredness of the law—the craven wretches never moved; and when their President, Canino—one of the Bonapartes—moved the order of the day to go on with the business, the cowardly crew sat in their places; and there was not a voice raised in defence of decency itself, or of the rights of human nature.

Such were the men Pius IX. had to deal with—such was the House of Representatives sent to him to regenerate the country.

Nothing, however, could diminish the love of Pius for his people. He loved them with more than a father's, yea, more than with a mother's love. He was now a prisoner in his palace. His presence in Rome was made use of by those traitors as a sanction to their acts. Accordingly, out of mercy to his people, he fled in disguise, assisted by the French and accompanied by the Bavarian Ambassador to Gaeta, in Naples. There he found shelter and aid from the late King of Naples—the most calumniated Sovereign in Christendom, who, however, lived and died a king, and would have neither peace nor truce with the men of the dagger.

The French Emperor, or rather the universal voice of the French people, sent a liberating army to Rome, and the Holy Father was once more restored to the throne of St. Peter. But all the bright hopes of the really Liberal party were now blasted. The revolutionists created a worthless paper currency, and the Pope's Government was obliged by degrees to call it all in, and destroy it to the amount of millions of dollars. Silver and gold almost disappeared from ordinary commerce, and worthless notes or huge coppers were the only money in general circulation. I frequently myself experienced the inconvenience of taking a load of coppers, or paying a premium for silver. The people—by their apathy at the elections, which allowed the infidel party, though a miserable minority, to fill their House with their partizans principally by the threat of assassination, the dagger being the only sceptre which now rules in Italy—proved themselves totally unfitted for representative government, and Pius was obliged to follow the old routine in a great measure.

He is a man of portly appearance, and was till lately active. The numerous portraits we see of him, though they give the general outline of his face, do not catch the expression of benevolence which, like a summer cloud, perpetually plays about his features, particularly his lips. Most agreeable in his manners and address, all who approach him are delighted with their reception, and seem immediately to forget the Sovereign in the Father. I know he has a most retentive memory, for he has sometimes reminded me of interviews or audiences I had with him years before. I believe he has no enemies; and though there are many bitter foes of the Popedom in Italy, as elsewhere, I do not believe that Pius IX. has ever made a single enemy.

The Government, as you are aware, is an elective monarchy, and the son of the poorest man like the great Sixtus V., the son of a swineherd, may become the possessor of the papal throne. The Cardinals form his Council, and the chief provinces are governed by Cardinal Legates as Viceroys. The Civil List, including the whole expense of the Court, Legates to foreign countries, support of the Papal Palaces and Museums, is only about, as far as I can recollect—for I quote from memory—£160,000 a year—the lightest in Europe. The salary of the Cardinals is only 4000 dollars a year, though they rank with princes; but then recollect that they have no wives or families—no sons to provide commissions for, nor daughters to procure husbands for.

But then the English and French, and some of the Italian journals, say the Government is one of priests, and therefore not fit for laymen. First, I deny in toto that the superior education and habits of self restraint a priest acquires disqualify him for governing; and the only great Ministers remembered in any country in Europe were ecclesiastics—Ximenes in Spain, Richilieu in France, and Wolsey in England. But waiving that question, it is not true that the Government is a priestly one, because the Pope is a priest, no more than the Government of England or Spain is a womanish one because the Sovereigns are women. The late French Ambassador, Count Rayneval, published a report derived from the most authentic sources, which shows what very little share Ecclesiastics have in the Civil Government. Of course, the Penitentiary, the Datary for issuing Papal Bulls—all those purely religious offices are filled by priests, the same as legal offices are filled by lawyers; and the Protestant Bishops in the House of Lords, not to speak of clerical magistrates—an anomaly not tolerated in the Roman States—are more numerous in proportion to the population of the United Kingdom than are the priests in high lay offices in the Pope's dominions. Nay more, the Consistorial Courts of the Bishops of the Protestant Church of England and Ireland have or had, within the last few years, a far more extended jurisdiction than was ever possessed by any Ecclesiastical Court in the Papal States. There is no Poor Law there. The Charitable and Religious Foundations and the Convents relieve every want. Poverty is not a crime, to be punished by imprisonment in a poor law bastile. In fact, the whole administration of Charity is too Christian; and political economists must, according to their principle of national wealth and the application of the workhouse test, condemn it.

Among all the tyrannical systems ever established, there is not one worse than the Conscription. It takes away the child from the parent, and at the most dangerous period of his life exposes him to all the demoralization of the camp. It is a tax of blood on the poor, but only a trifling tax on the rich. For example, by paying into the Military Chest in France 2000 francs, equal to £80 sterling, and in Spain 500 dollars or £100 sterling, the State provides a substitute, and the rich man's son is exempt; but the son of the poor man—to whom £80 or £100, which represents more than double the sum in this country, is as unattainable as a million—must go to wherever the ambition of his rulers may send him, exposed to all the horrors of war. Hence it is that in whatever country the Conscription exists, the people deteriorate both morally and physically from natural causes; and a century of conscription will, if persevered in, produce a stunted race. In the Pope's States all the army are volunteers. All around him the conscription exists; the tax of blood is most rigidly enforced, but the Father of the Faithful is only defended by willing hands.

The taxes are lighter than in any other European country, and would be scarcely felt but for the plunder of the French in the time of Pius VI., when a tax of four millions pounds sterling was imposed on the States. The very chalices from the altars were melted down to pay it and the jewels of the Pope's tiara were sold for the same purpose. The subsequent deportation of Pius VI. and Pius VII., and the various revolutions excited by wicked men for their own vile ends—have all entailed a heavy debt on the Government.

Some will tell you gravely that Ecclesiastical property does not pay its share of taxation. Well, what is the fact? All property of that nature pays the ordinary tax like any other, and then an additional tax of six per cent besides

No periodical famines, no ejectments disgrace the Papal States. There, at all events, the Government protects the laborer, and tells the landlords that property has its duties as well as its rights. On that account, also, the Canadian or peasantry are most attached to the Papal Government; and if universal suffrage was not a farce as long as votes are given under the dagger, the real feelings of the people would be easily known. But people here will say why do not the good men vote and put down the scoundrel minority, which robs them of all they hold dear, and oppresses them. There are several reasons. I will state a few.

1. The people in general, never having been accustomed to any other than a paternal Government, are apathetic. They do not want to vote. They do not understand the bearings or value of voting; and if the priests, for example, should attempt to instruct or influence them, it would be a crime against liberalism, in many cases to be punished with death by assassination.

2. The Secret Societies, generally called by the name of Carbonarism. Of all the curses the Devil has ever inflicted on mankind, the Carbonari or Italian Secret Societies is the greatest. Once a man is entangled in them there is no hope for him, especially if he be deeply implicated in their secrets. He must be faithful or he dies by the dagger. An election, for example, is about to come on in which the Carbonari have an interest. An order goes forth in darkness from the Committee of the Society to paralyse the Church party. Two or three victims, well known for their attachment to the ancient order, are marked out, and the affiliati are ordered to dispatch them—an order which must be obeyed under pain of death. The dagger strikes the victim—all opposition ceases; a reign of terror is established; few vote at all; but all who do, take care not to provoke the fate of their assassinated friends; and the English, and French, and other papers in the pay of the party, publish the triumphant result of the elections for their partisans, though it is the dagger, and not the ballot box that has done it.

But some will say, where is the trade of this country?—see how dull her cities are. Well, surely the Government cannot make traders of people against their will—against their nature. The Italians have not the feverish desire of wealth which urges on the Englishman or American to be always accumulating—never enjoying. No, they take a more rational view of life, and do not put wealth above all other earthly blessings. But then, again, consider, the country supports in happiness twenty-six millions of people. Take, for example, a town of the size of Charlottetown; well, within ten miles of the town all that is required for its inhabitants is easily produced with very little exception—such as fancy goods, colonial produce, printed cottons, and a few other trifling articles. Their bread and wine—the staff of life—are produced at their own doors,—their olive ground give them both light and food,—their little patch of town forest, fuel or charcoal,—meat, poultry, vegetables and fruit are produced in the greatest abundance; so there is no the necessity for foreign commerce that exists in less favoured lands, where a great part of the necessaries of life are only to be procured by exchanges with other nations.

(*To be concluded in next No.*)

The London Court Circular says: "The joke going the round is that on the day of the Volunteer Review the Emperor of the French was seen under a tree in Hyde Park, dressed in shooting jacket and wide awake, and with a cigar in his mouth. Stranger things have happened. Charles Edward had an interview in London with George III.; and the Great Napoleon, it is said, once ran over to have a quiet chat with Pitt."

Correspondence.

THE LAND QUESTION.

PUBLIC MEETING AT TIGNISH, LOT ONE.

At a numerous meeting held at Tignish, Lot One, on Monday, the 20th inst., for the purpose of determining the action to be taken by the Tenantry in the District before the Land Commission. Mr. Sylvane Gallant in the chair.

Proposed by Mr. Patrick Cannick, seconded by Mr. Cyprian Chaisson:

Whereas a Commission has been appointed, and is now about to sit, for the adjustment of all differences between Landlord and Tenant; and whereas it is expected that the Tenantry will state to said Commission such terms as they are able to fulfil and willing to accept—*Therefore Resolved*, That the Tenantry in this District shall be prepared, to the best of their means, to purchase the Proprietors' Lands on the same terms as the Selkirk and Worrel Estates have been recently sold to the Tenantry.

Resolved That it is the opinion of this meeting that no real prosperity or contentment can be expected throughout the Island until the Tenantry shall become freeholders on some such equitable terms.

Proposed by Mr. William Harper, seconded by Mr. Edward Fitzgerald:

Resolved That the Members for this District, Messrs. Conroy and Doyle, and also Messrs. James Thompson, Thomas Brenard and Hubert Gaudet, be a Committee to carry out the above Resolutions; and that Mr. Benjamin Davies, of Charlottetown, be requested to represent the Tenantry before the Commission, and to act generally as their agent.

Proposed by Mr. James Thompson, seconded by Mr. Patrick Nelligan:

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Hon. Mr. Warburton for his attendance here to-day, and also for his uniform attention to the wants of the District for a number of years.

Proposed by Mr. William Callahan, seconded by Mr. Joseph Richard:

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolutions be sent to the *Examiner* and *Islander* newspapers for publication, and that a copy be forwarded to the Clerk of the Executive Council, to be laid before the Government.

SYLVANE GALLANT, Chairman.

Tignish, Aug. 20, 1860.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

THE LAND QUESTION.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Princetown Royalty and Lot 18 was held in the Mechanics' Institute, on the evening of the 27th August, for the purpose of taking into consideration matters in connection with the Land Question and the Commission appointed thereon.

The Hon. Donald Ramsay being called to the Chair, and Mr. Neil McDougald being requested to act as Secretary, the meeting was addressed by the Hon. the Speaker, George Sinclair, Esqr., M.P.P., and others.

The following Resolution was then submitted by H. S. McNutt, Esqr., seconded by Benj. Bearsto, Esqr., and carried unanimously:—

"That while we deem the Commission, as at present constituted, the *correct* method of settling the long vexed Land Question, *if properly carried out*, we at the same time feel that any neglect of duty, on the part of the Government, will cause it to become a lasting curse to the people of Prince Edward Island, and will tend only to rivet more firmly those chains of slavery and bondage in which the Tenantry have hitherto been held."

After which John Ramsay, Esqr., submitted the following Resolution, which being seconded by D. S. McNutt, Esqr., was also unanimously adopted:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, it is the imperative duty of the Government, on the opening of the Commission, to call upon the whole of the Proprietary claimants of lands in P. E. Island to lay before said Commissioners the titles, deeds and documents, by which they hold the lands they claim; and further that the Government should also lay before the Commissioners every evidence relative to the non-fulfilment of the Original Grants, the non-payment of Quit Rents, and the Escheary Reserves, together with all other matters hitherto in dispute connected with the Land tenure in this Island; and to advocate, on behalf of the Tenantry, by every means in their power, such amelioration in the terms as their present condition and future welfare may seem to require."

After some further discussion, it was agreed that a Committee of three persons be appointed, for the purpose of affording to the Commission such information as they may from time to time require, when the following gentlemen were appointed:—John Ramsay, Alex. Stewart, and G. Dempsey, Esqrs.

While the latter Resolution was being discussed, it was suggested that a Central Committee in Charlottetown, who would correspond with local Committees, should be formed in which many of those present seemed to concur. The discussion was long and animated—all appearing satisfied that we are on the eve of an eventful epoch in the history of Prince Edward Island, whether for weal or woe; and all appeared highly pleased with the gentlemen appointed as Commissioners, and seemed disposed to hope for the best results, provided only they are afforded an opportunity of doing that justice to all parties which their well known capability and independent position will induce them to pursue. Seldom, if ever, did a political meeting take place in this community, when each political party were so well represented, and so little difference of opinion on the principal matters under consideration seemed to exist.

It having been proposed and unanimously agreed to, that a report of the proceedings of the meeting be sent to the *Examiner* and *Islander* for publication, the Hon the Speaker was called to the Chair, when a vote of thanks was passed to the Hon. D. Ramsay for his able and impartial conduct therein, after which the meeting adjourned.

NEIL MCDOUGALD, Sec'y.

THE LAND QUESTION.

WOODBROOK, August 28, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,—At the request of the inhabitants of the Brae, Lot 9, I transmit to you copy of Resolutions passed at a Meeting held there yesterday. I explained my views on the celebrated "Land Commission" at the meeting. I believe that Commission to be a humbug, as regards any benefit the tenantry may derive from it. The Proprietors may remit some portion of the arrears of rent, which the Tenantry are unable to pay, on the condition that a Parliamentary title be given them of their lands; and this, no doubt, the present Proprietary Government will give them. I omit one of the resolutions, which was merely thanking me for attending by invitation the meeting. I attended a large meeting at Tignish yesterday week, also by invitation of my old friends there, at which resolutions were carried something similar to those agreed to at the Brae.

It is generally believed that the Government have but little faith in the "Commission," having extended the Land Purchase Bill, which, when in opposition, they abused so much, in order to purchase the Selkirk estate. If the "Commission" was to be of such vital benefit to the tenantry, why, in the name of consistency, did they not try how it would operate before involving the Island so much more in debt.

I was always, and am still of the opinion that the Purchase Bill is the fairest and most expeditious way of converting leasehold into freehold tenure; and if £10,000 were sunk to-morrow in the purchase of lands, the consequent increase in the population would increase the duties enough to pay the interest of the money. The party now in power oppose this "equitable" arrangement in every way. The people are returning to the belief that Escheat is now the only means of doing away with their grievances; and if that question is again agitated throughout the Island more fiercely than ever, the Government are to blame for it.

I remain, yours very truly,

J. WARBURTON.

Hon. E. WHELAN, Ed. Exr.

PUBLIC MEETING AT LOT NINE.

At a meeting held at the Brae, to take into consideration what course ought to be adopted with reference to the Commission appointed to adjust the existing grievances of the Tenantry, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Proposed by Mr. Laughlin McLean, seconded by Mr. Neil McKinnon:

"That the Commission lately appointed by the Government has led the tenantry of this District to expect that they shall be placed in a position to become freeholders of the land on which they have spent their life's labor; that if such be the fact the Tenants will use every exertion to comply with any reasonable conditions, such, for instance, as have been granted to the tenantry of Lot Eleven and other Townships purchased by the Government."

Proposed by Mr. John Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Alexander McDonald:

"That so long as the rent system preys upon the energies of the tenant farmers, they can never become prosperous or contented."

Proposed by Mr. Thomas Milligan, seconded by Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick:

"That Benjamin Davies, Esq., in whom this meeting places every confidence, be requested to act as Agent to the tenantry of this District, and explain their grievances to the Commissioners."

Proposed by Mr. William Moorside, seconded by Mr. Benjamin Henry:

That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Government to be laid before the Commissioners, and that copies be also sent to the *Examiner* and *Islander* newspapers for publication. JOHN MCLEAN, Chairman.

Brae, Lot 9, August 27, 1860.

THE PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE LAND QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your inserting in the *Examiner* the following letter, in reply to communications received from Public Meetings lately held in Prince County.

Yours truly,

BENJAMIN DAVIES.

Sept. 3, 1860.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF A PUBLIC MEETING AT TIGNISH, LOT ONE.

SIR,—I had the honour to receive a letter from Nicholas Conroy, Esqr., M.P.P., stating that he had been authorised by you, as Chairman of a Public Meeting held on the 20th instant at Tignish, Lot One, informing me that I had been appointed to represent the tenantry, and act generally as their Agent before the Commissioners appointed to settle the existing differences arising out of the land tenures, and referring me to a series of resolutions passed at that meeting, which had been forwarded to the Editor of the *Examiner*.

The editor of the above named paper kindly handed me a copy of those resolutions, and having read them, I beg leave to state, that it does not appear to be necessary that I or any other person should go before the Commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the views the Meeting seemed to entertain, the principal one of which is the purchase of Proprietory claims, without, apparently, an investigation into the titles of the Proprietors. This object may, I think, be more readily attained by making direct application to the local Government.

Allow me briefly to state my opinion of the important duties entrusted to the decision of the honourable and distinguished gentlemen who form the Board of Commissioners. I consider it their duty to determine whether the parties who claim ownership to the Township lands in this Colony can make good their claims in law or equity; and also to give effect to the reasonable expectations which the people of this Island were induced to form when Responsible Government was granted—when the cost of our civil list was agreed to be borne by the people—when retiring pensions were voted to some officers of the old Government; and when in exchange for these burthens the interest of the Crown in the Township Lands was to be relinquished in favour of the people of this Island. I consider, also, that when the Imperial Government agreed to the appointment of a Commission, their main object was to have determined what lands belonged to the Crown and are liable to forfeiture, and what belong to private individuals. This I believe to be the most important part of the duty of the Commissioners—should certainly form the base work of their deliberations, and should have been settled before the Government bought up the claims of assumed proprietors.

You will at once see from what I have stated that the principal question at issue is one between the Crown and the Proprietors; and if the latter can establish their claims, it will be time enough for the Tenantry to appoint Attorneys to show cause why a remission of rents should take place. The latter is a private case; therefore it is just and right that the views of the Tenantry, as a class, should be represented by gentlemen of the legal profession entitled to their confidence, whose training and practice better qualify them for the discharge of the duties of such an office than any private person. But in the former case—that between the Crown and its refractory tenants, the proprietors—*it is the duty of the Government to see that every justice shall be done to the people;* and I trust its report will cause the land claimants to prove that they have fulfilled the conditions of their grants. Failing to do so, the land becomes public property, and will, no doubt, be disposed of by the Legislature, as was fully expected by the country from the letter and spirit of the Civil List Bill. Such are my opinions, and being called on, I give them freely and without fear.

Having been requested by the Chairman of Public Meeting held on Lots 27 and 28, as well as by the Chairman of a Public Meeting at Cascumpeque, to appear in the capacity of their Agent before the Commissioners, I embrace the present opportunity to express the foregoing views as an answer to them all, and to other applications of a like tendency with which I may be honoured; and I shall feel obliged to the editors of the *Examiner* and *Islander* to give them to their readers at the earliest date. Those views have not been hastily formed. I made them known to the public frequently while I had the honour of a seat in the Assembly; and it is needless for me to say, therefore, that I must decline the important trust assigned to me, as my acceptance of it would be like abandoning my long established convictions, and becoming a party to the purchase of property fraudulently held, derogatory to the honour of the Crown, and detrimental to the best interests of the tenantry. I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

BENJAMIN DAVIES.

Charlottetown, Sept. 3, 1860.

GOVERNMENT LAND JOBBING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I have heard, with much surprise, that the Government of this Island have made another purchase of land in King's County, namely, Township number Fifty-four, which even up to this day does not contain the number of settlers required by the original grant. Now, Sir, the Land Purchase Bill, introduced by Mr. Coles, was designed to benefit the tenantry, and not to relieve any proprietor from holding an almost worthless township of land, and cause a heavy loss of land tax to the Colony before the wilderness lands could be disposed of; for, on the township referred to, there are only about 4000 acres cleared, leaving 16,000 acres in a wilderness state.

In 1832, a Committee was appointed by the House of Assembly of that day, to make enquiry as to the number of Townships that were liable to escheat, and a question having been put to one of the witnesses respecting the number of acres cleared on Lot 54, the following answer was given:—"There are only a very few settlers on it, and only 200 acres are cleared." This shows very clearly that the land was liable to forfeiture at that time; and now, after the elapse of nearly thirty years, Lot 54 is not yet settled in accordance with the conditions of the original grant. Surely the Government should submit this Lot to the consideration of the Commissioners, if they expect any good to result from the enquiry, but it appears that the only aim of the Government is to serve the proprietors. I suppose, indeed, that the President of the Executive Council, Mr. Palmer, has changed his opinion since he opposed the Loan Bill a few years ago. He objected to that measure because, he said, "it would unjustly tax one class in the community for the benefit of another." I have no doubt, however, that the present Tory Government will not hesitate to tax the whole Island for the benefit of the proprietors; and we have a very good proof of this evil design in their purchase of the Selkirk estate. That property was offered to another party, and could have been bought by the Government on the same terms, for some thousands of pounds less than *they* offered for it—amounting, as I am credibly informed, to about fifty per cent. The consequence is, that the tenantry on the Selkirk Estate will have to pay for their farms one half more than they would be required to pay if the Government had not made such a blind bargain as they did, without consulting the House of Assembly.

Yours, &c.

A FREEHOLDER.

Sep. 3, 1860.

THE NEW YORK *TRIBUNE* AND ITS LYING CORRESPONDENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—The united thanks of the community are due you for the ready and positive refutation of the most brutally gross and libellous attack made upon the truly loyal and orderly concourse of our fellow and neighbouring colonists, assembled in Charlottetown during the three happy days we enjoyed the long-wished for opportunity of testifying to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales how we hailed his advent to this Colony, and the deep and lasting love we entertain for his Mother, his and our most gracious Queen—by some ignorant, despicably low scribbling penny-a-lining falsehood fabricator, for that notoriously anti-British publication, the New York *Tribune*. I had not the honour of a personal introduction to the above mentioned worthy during his stay in Charlottetown, I am thankful to say, but having heard from very reliable testimony that he was *drunk*, I have some satisfaction, as the worthless scoundrel's fellow-being, in partly excusing his foul-tongued scurrility. Possibly our shameless detractor may be considered a wag in his way in his own City here, perchance, as a Reporter, he is honored, and being, as I am credibly informed, very SMALL in stature, and, as before said, rather TIGHT, intends it may be, that we should draw a comparison unfavourably to his GENTLEMANLY self, between him and those he so gracefully designates "the LARGER and LOOSER" masses of the population. "That is about the size of it, I guess,