

well. A short time after he was altogether different as to his state of mind; this would be about nine years ago. It was after the house was burnt he was in a raving state of mind, and talked nonsense. Saw him in Charlottetown street; he threw off his coat and a bundle he had; he said he wanted to take shipping to go to another country; advised him to go over the ferry. He desired him to mind his own business; left him then. He came to him last summer, asked him for work; offered to do some stumping. He said "you have left the boat. Welsh has got her now. You had better get a new pair of shippers, as he witnesses, would have to go to Sebastopol." Came a second time; asked for labour; said it was hard a man who was starving could not get labour. He rather kept back from prisoner. His wife would not consent to employ him. Prisoner asked him if he had got the despatches for Russia to advance, and said he would soon get them. Parted with him, slapping his hands and jumping several feet. Was inclined at one time to give him work, but was advised not to do it, on account of his state of mind. His early days in his boyhood he was quite correct, but has been very different since. He had been confined by his brother Roderick. After that he came to witness's house, and complained of it; said they had crippled him by it; gave such reasons for their doing so as he could not believe. He came three times with an order for something on Roderick's account; this was after he had been liberated by his brother and mother. Did not see him from that time until he saw him in Charlottetown as before stated. Saw Roderick last summer; there was something peculiar in him; he owed him, Roderick, money and he refused to receive payment. There was something wrong as to Roderick's mind.

Cross-examined by Attorney General—It is about five years ago that the circumstance of prisoner throwing down his bundle took place. It was in June last he asked for employment. Did not see him for three years before the time in Charlottetown when he saw him last, but saw him at June. He was jumping and slapping his hands when he saw him in Charlottetown; don't think he was sober then; has seen other men jump about when drunk. When he saw him last spring he asked for work in stumping; then spoke of the boat and his getting shipping for Sebastopol. Second time asked if he, witness, got the despatches. Lives about a mile from deceased's residence. Saw prisoner three times whilst in Lane's employ. Conversing with him twice; once when he was going into the woods, and once when he was coming out. He left him; he was talking something about shoes, so fast he could not tell what he said. Prisoner and he were playmates and school-fellows. The mother's house was burnt eight or nine years ago. Prisoner was different in his mind after that. Roderick, the brother, told him all the papers had gone to the flames. Spoke to prisoner twice in June last, and twice since; believes him to be insane.

DOUGLAS MACNEILL—examined by Mr. Palmer—Knows prisoner; has known him for thirteen or fourteen years; has conversed with him several times during that period, particularly when he knew him in his father's house; considered him then a very industrious and steady young man, and so continued until the house was burnt eight or nine years ago. Heard he had attempted to commit suicide; was called to see the wound; he was then very mad; took four men to hold him whilst witness dressed the wound; it was shortly after the house was burnt. The wound was a serious one; he was so violent he had to be held; it was chained for a year and a half, certainly over a year. He was confined in a corner of the granary. The person who went to feed him had to keep at a distance, he was so violent. Roderick, a brother, was deranged. His brother Lauchlan took him and built a cottage for him, in which he kept him chained. Believed he made his escape; that he was not locked by Lauchlan. He then went to his brother Roderick, who was himself deranged. He then left Vernon River, and went to the westward; did not see him for a year afterwards. Saw him after that about five years ago. He called at witness's house to ask his advice whether he had better labour to earn money to buy a horse, or go to farming at once; he was then more rational. He went to Nova Scotia; he returned; saw him on his return in October last was a year; asked him to allow him to come to his house; said he would work if he gave him some clothes. He set him to work; he remained some weeks with him. During that time he went twice to town to see, he said, some person about some forged bill. He worked steadily, but he would sit for two hours together in the house without moving or speaking. He would start up, run to the barn or to the woods; dance and sing. To ask him a question he would give a short answer, but immediately fall off when pressed. Has seen him strip to a tree in the woods and box with it, and also strip and box the barn. When working he was then very mad. Saw him when he was at Lane's, but not often to converse with. Whilst he lived at Lane's conversed with him on one occasion, when he raved about some boots; then made a spring and ran off. He, witness, then remarked to a person that he was afraid poor Donald would do some harm before Lane parted with him. He came to witness in the fall for a pair of fanners, which he put upon the trunk himself; this was a very few days before Lane was killed. In witness's opinion prisoner is insane, and has been so for a number of years past.

Cross-examined by Attorney General—He offered to work for witness for about six weeks; kept him to do so. Has seen him take off his coat to box a tree, and take it off to box corners of the barn. He remained a great deal. What he means by that is, that he talks nonsense. Has heard him talk as if he was conversing with another. Was not afraid of him. It was foolish in him to keep him, knowing his state of mind. Showed no bad temper when with him. It was last October twelve months when he hired him; he then went to live at Murray Harbour road; he afterwards came to Lane's. He never called at his house whilst he lived at Lane's. Witness lives about twenty-five chains from deceased's house. In speaking of forged bills, you could not follow him up; he diverged from the subject. He complained of the shoe-maker, not of Lane, about the boots. He looked worse then than formerly. Judge's temper when with him, and that the man was so insane he was incapable of doing anything for him. If cannot say he did not know right from wrong. When with him, if he ploughed and he desired him to drive the horses well, he would drive so as to spoil the land; desire him to drive slower, he would go so slow as hardly to let the horses move. He appeared anxious to do as he wished, but did not seem to be able to comprehend his orders.

JOHN ROSEONE BURKE—examined by Mr. Palmer—Knows prisoner—his family lived at Vernon River. Recollects his father's death, he then continued to live with his mother. In July last saw him near his mill. He asked witness if he wanted any person to mow, said he had a mowing machine. He then said he supposed it was the best to mow with, said he knew when his prisoner's father was mowing witness, and that his father was then in hell paying for it, and the devil mend him. He then jumped away. Felt no inclination to give him work after this.

Cross-examined by Attorney General—About one o'clock when he met him, parted then with him after their conversation. ALEXANDER MACNEILL—examined by Mr. Palmer—Knows prisoner—knew him when a boy. He was tied and confined for some years. Saw him afterwards when he worked at Mr. Munroe's. Saw him working in an extraordinary manner, flourishing the scythe. He cast down the scythe, ran up to the witness, and said he wanted him to go on an errand for him to Murray Harbour Road, to challenge Wally Ross to mow. Witness said if he got no other person he would go for him; said this not to offend him, saw him in the evening; to keep on good terms told him he could not go. He said it was no matter, Sabine would go. Afterwards saw him. He said Ross was a coward; said he could cut four or five acres a day. When he lived at Munroe's, he heard him in the woods, raving and talking as if with another person; has listened to him a few days before Lane was killed; came and asked him about rick; talked sensibly at first. Said his sister was going to be married to Benjamin McMillan, Belfast, and he was going to lose his land; spoke of his bad shoes also; did not present the appearance of being in liquor; considers him not in his right mind.

LAUCHLAN MACNEILL—examined by Mr. Palmer—Is a brother of prisoner; he is younger than witness; father died 10 years ago; prisoner remained with mother in charge of farm; he is about 22 years of age; at that time he conducted himself very well, until the house was burnt, about eight years ago. He was steady, sober and industrious. In March after the house was burnt, his mother sent for him; said the stock would be lost from the way prisoner fed the cattle; saw it was the case, they were so poor and reduced. He was going round in a circle; would not speak to him, witness. He reduced himself by not eating or drinking, was miserable in appearance; asked his mother to watch him. Was in the woods in April after, when his mother sent for him; told him prisoner would not keep his clothes on; found it to be the case. He stripped naked, and would not clothe himself. Went away to get assistance; they sent after him to say he had gone away; searched for him; found him in the outhouse; he would not speak; found him with his neck cut—a bad wound in it, a razor alongside of him. Brought him to his own house; he sat without speaking the whole day. About dark he began to be restless. He moved to the chest where he, witness, had put away all weapons for fear of him. He attempted to break open the chest. Brought McDonald to watch with him. Both he and McDonald fell asleep. When he awoke found him getting a nail from the wall, and they had great difficulty to get it from him. Chained him next day. He was quite mad. Brought Dr. Kaye to him; he remained silent the whole summer, and would not speak. Dr. Kaye said he could do nothing for him. His legs were crippled with his confinement. When he got a little better, he got very violent. Had to chain him; got a padlock for him; had to erect a house to hold him. He made his escape. Went to his brother's house; he followed him; he said he would be back to build a chimney. Left him there for a day or two. He went away; heard he was at North River; he returned when his legs were better; he left again; heard he had left the Island; heard he was at Antigonish, in a bad situation. Last fall twelve months a neighbour sent him bound; he was returned, bad as ever; saw him a few days after passing, ran to head him, overtook him, offered to shake hands with him; he put his hand behind him and refused to shake hands with him. He was much worse in his mind then

than he was when he came from Munroe's. Roderick came home; saw them both together; prisoner seemed to be bad in his mind then. Saw him afterwards in July; asked him where he was going; he said he was going to Charlottetown, about a lawsuit he had there, with a McKay, of Pictou, about a forged bill. He got so wild and jumped about so, he left. Wanted him to come home, and he would support him; he refused. He was terrible wild that day. He does not think it arose from drink. He cautioned tavern-keepers not to give him drink. Supposed his state of mind arose from the burning of the house; never saw him well since a question at first, but then goes off. Went into jail with Dr. Jenkins yesterday; said to prisoner he came to enquire about the forged bill he spoke of in July. He said he would tell him—there was John McInnis and Donald Vandersteele had caught a large trout; said there were three sons of McKay in West Indies; McKay would not pay him the wages due him; explained a forged bill to meet him here, and talked more nonsense. Believes prisoner not in his right mind; not so in July or October; as bad yesterday as when he was confined by him.

Cross-examined by Attorney General—Saw him when he lived at Munroe's; he refused to shake hands with him last July. Told him if he did not come back and support his mother, he would lose his land; he said he did not care; did not see him whilst he lived at Lane's; did not go to Lane's to see him then. Yesterday was the first time he saw prisoner since he was first put in; asked him about Lane's, he asked him who brought him there, he said he knew James Collings and John Jenkins that brought him there, he asked how he left Lane's; he said he told him to go away—said there had been some dispute with Lane about cattle. He broke loose from him whilst he had him confined, or he could not have let him go. Knew by his features, when he saw him in jail, that he was bad in his mind—not the same countenance man he was before he became insane. He is about 30 years of age; was 22 when he became bad in his mind.

JOHN LAWSON, Esq., Q. C.—In this case I am of Counsel for the Crown. The duties of Jurors are at all times arduous; still more so, when upon the result of their deliberations the life of a fellow-creature is depending. I agree with the learned Counsel for the prisoner, that it is your duty to guard yourselves from any impression which may be made upon you by the evidence which you will be called upon to consider, and that you will be guided by the evidence now offered before you, and by that alone. The first question for your consideration is, whether a homicide has been committed? and if that you cannot have the shadow of a doubt; the next, was that homicide committed by the prisoner? and that you cannot, when you consider the evidence, I think, hesitate to answer in the affirmative. Then comes the most important question, was the prisoner sane mind when he inflicted the blow or stroke which occasioned the death of William Lane? and if so, did the prisoner such sufficient provocation, from the acts of the deceased, as to warrant you in bringing in a verdict of manslaughter? The facts of the case are very few and very simple. The prisoner and deceased stood in the relation of servant and master. About 10 o'clock, on the morning of the 20th of October, both parties went into the stable which is at no great distance from the house; the prisoner either took an axe with him, or there was one in the barn, with which he had been previously working. A hammering is heard and nothing is seen of either, the prisoner or deceased, until Mrs. Lane, the wife of the latter, opened the stable door in order to summon both parties to dinner, when the first object that met her eyes was the dead body of her husband, lying in a pool of blood, with his head cut in the manner she and the other witnesses have described. The prisoner was not to be seen; it is in evidence before you that footsteps wide apart and deeply indented in the ploughed land, as if some person in great haste had passed over, are discovered leading to a wood which was near. The prisoner is afterwards tracked to the house of McGrath, several miles distant from Lane's house, whether he had come in a heavy rain in his shirt sleeves. You have heard the manner in which he was accosted and the reply he made; and I am satisfied that when you look to the whole of the evidence, you can have no reasonable doubt in your mind that the deceased came by his death from blows given with an axe in the hands of the prisoner. As to the manner in which these blows were given, you have the evidence of Sabine, an intelligent young man, who has so minutely described the situation of the place—the unfinished box at the head of the stall—the manner in which it was fastened—the nail underneath that had apparently received but one blow—all leading you to the same conclusion that the witness himself came to, viz: that the fatal blow must have been given when the deceased was stooping down for the purpose of driving the nail upward. The situation of the wounds, particularly that on the temple, are in corroboration of the correctness of this view of the manner of their infliction; the deceased must have been there after his guard, and the blow could not have been given either in self-defence, or the result of a previous quarrel, of which there is no evidence either express or implied. Feeling satisfied that you will have no difficulty on this head, I will now turn your attention to the evidence which has been adduced, and relied on as exculpating the prisoner from the crime of murder on the ground of insanity. Let us first see what are the different degrees of insanity. (The Counsel then read several extracts from Roscoe on Evidence, and Forsyth on Medical Jurisprudence.) If the prisoner is insane the particular species of insanity, under which he labors, is that of monomania or delusion. He is a day-dreamer—talks to himself—carries on imaginary conversation with others—and has an idea that he is in some measure connected with forged bills—and a man by the name of McKay, in Pictou, still he is a responsible being. The law on this point has been clearly laid before you by the learned Attorney General. The question for you to consider is, whether he, when he committed the act in question, was capable of knowing right from wrong? That he was perfectly well acquainted with the consequences of one man killing another, you cannot for a moment doubt. His conversation with the girl, Hayden, is conclusive on that ground. He is reading a case of murder in the newspaper, and he puts the case of a crazy man and wise man, in which the crazy man kills the wise man, and he comes to the conclusion that nothing could be done to the crazy man. Leaving the reasoning out of the question, it shows that he knew that if a man committed murder he would be liable to punishment. One of the tests of madness is this very reasoning faculty. A mad man, says Locke, is one who draws a sound conclusion from false premises. Here, however, and in the hypothetical case respecting the robbing of Mr. McIsaac, he not only came to a sound conclusion, but his premises are in both instances correct; his mode of reasoning is precisely the same that you, as jurors, would use if empanelled to try the cases put by the prisoner. Great stress is laid upon the habit of the prisoner running out into the woods and talking to himself. I much fear that if this habit were a test of madness, very many of us would fall under the same category—myself among the number. The truth is, that it is a very common habit—weakness, if you will—that salutary, studious and reflecting men are prone to. It is stated of the late Lord Dudley and Ward that he would tell people to their faces what he thought of them, unconscious all the while that he was giving utterance to his own thoughts; and yet he was never considered either a fool or a madman. That a man may be under a delusion as to particular points, and perfectly sane as to the common affairs of life, is well known; and the cases cited by the learned counsel for the prisoner go to establish that fact. But these cases have no bearing upon the point in question. There the only thing for the Jury to consider was whether the prosecutor, who had been confined in a madhouse, and who had preferred a bill of indictment against Dr. Willis, for assault and false imprisonment, was really and truly insane or not. If he were, then the parties indicted were not guilty; and the question so abruptly put, proved the fact, and they were acquitted. Had the same witness been tried for murder, there is little doubt but that he would have been found guilty. Admitting that the prisoner labored under monomania, there is no evidence to show that he was subject to that species of it which is called murderous monomania; on the contrary he is perfectly harmless, gay, and good-humoured at times, and others sulky, much like other men. It is true that his brother and other witnesses have proved that he was at one time, according to their account, raving mad, and there is no question but that he and they took the best possible means to aggravate the disease. It is one of the triumphs of science in the present day that whips and chains and harshness are all superseded in the treatment of the insane, by other and more rational methods of cure. He, however, recovers of this madness, and after having been some time away returns to the Island, no longer raving mad, but to all appearance a sane man. Not only does he apply for work for the purpose of supporting himself, but performs that work to the satisfaction of his employer. All the witnesses without exception testify to his knowledge of right

and wrong. Much has been said of diseased imaginations, but it must be remembered that there are also depraved imaginations. Men accustom themselves by degrees to look on crime and the consequences of it with very different sentiments to what they entertained in earlier periods of life. Murder becomes matter of calculation. Slavin, in his evidence on Breen's (his accomplice) trial, says that he advised Breen and his son not to have any thing more to do with killing people, not from any remorse or compunction, but because they had not sufficient command of nerve. It is evident that he had come to look upon murder in the light of an occupation. And with regard to this prisoner, we see that he had made it the subject of his reflections and of his calculations. He was fully aware of the soubriquet or nickname of "crazy Donald" that he had acquired, and it is evident that by the allusion to the crazy man in his conversation with the girl, Hayden, he meant himself. By his own confession it is not the first time he has taken human life. He says it was in self-defence, another convincing proof that he knew the difference between murder and manslaughter. Dr. Jenkins tells you that he did not consider him insane until the day previous to the commencement of this trial, and I cannot but remark that it was extremely clever in the brother to allude to the particular species of delusion in the presence of the medical men. It must not be supposed that the counsel for the Crown are anxious for the conviction of the unfortunate prisoner. God forbid! But they have had a serious and solemn duty to perform, and they seek only at your hands such a verdict as you can reconcile with your own consciences, after hearing and deliberating on the evidence and the law as you will receive it from the learned Judge who is trying the case. If you believe that at the time he committed the homicide he knew not what he was doing, you will of course acquit him; but I confess that after all that has been testified as to his knowledge of right and wrong, of the crime of murder, and of the consequences attendant upon the commission of that crime, I cannot see how you can come to any other conclusion but that he is guilty.

His Lordship THE CHIEF JUSTICE then proceeded to sum up the case, and in doing so, carefully read over and commented upon all the evidence given both for the prosecution and the defence, and also laid down the law clearly with respect to insanity, and pointed out in what cases and under what circumstances it discharges a party charged with the commission of acts of violence from accountability on their account, leaving it to the Jury to apply the facts given in evidence to the law, and to return their verdict accordingly, after serious and careful consideration. The Charge occupied upwards of two hours, and was listened to with the greatest attention by the Jury and all present on the occasion.

The Jury having retired, returned after a short absence with a verdict of GUILTY.

On the 20th January the Court proceeded to pass sentence of death upon Donald McNeill, and the 18th day of February instant, was appointed for his execution.

Correspondence.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ISLANDER.

Sir,—Amongst the compliments which you bestow on me in the *Islander* of the 29th ult., you say that the indulgence of 1816 is no forgery; but that it was the duty of the Prince Regent to follow the advice of his ministers to indulge the lordly grantees, &c. It is not allowed by the British constitution for the chief magistrate to set such an example of injustice, as to indulge one party at the expense of others, although it may suit your place to say so. And I believe the proper way to detect a forgery is to compare the suspected document with another, which is known to be authentic. I shall, therefore, give the authority on which this Island was granted, as given by Walter Patterson, Esq., when he was Governor-in-Chief, as follows:—

ISLAND OF ST. JOHN.—Whereas His Majesty, on the twenty-sixth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, by his Order in Council, was pleased to approve of and confirm the proceedings of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, upon a plan which had been approved of by his said Majesty in Council, on the ninth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four, for the settlement of said Island, &c.: Now know ye, that I, Walter Patterson, by virtue of the power and authority to me given, by his present Majesty King George the Third, under the great seal of Great Britain, have given, granted, &c., pursuant to his Majesty's Order in Council, &c. In witness whereof, I have signed these presents, and caused the seal of this Island to be thereunto affixed.

The above being the authorities upon which the grants of the Townships were made and their conditions fixed, I give below the authority for the indulgence of 1816, which is said to have altered the principal conditions, by a proclamation of Charles Douglas Smith, Lieut. Governor, as follows:—

Whereas by my proclamation, issued on the first day of October, 1816, it was notified that it was intended, on the part of the Crown, to fix a scale for the future payment of quit rent, &c. And whereas the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department has, in a despatch bearing date Downing-street, 30th May last, communicated to me that His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has, &c. Given under my hand and seal at arms, C. DOUGLAS SMITH.

I have marked the several authorities in italics for comparison. But before we compare it is necessary to keep in view, that the King in Council is the highest Court in the realm; and the members are sworn to advise the King to do justice, and are held answerable personally for their advice. And in the disposal of the public lands abroad, for the settlement of Colonies, they, with the assistance of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, are to keep in view that the Colonies shall be settled for the honor and support of the Empire in general, and for the well-being of the intended inhabitants in particular. Now these high authorities decided on oath, that the conditions were a necessary protection for other subjects, and declared to the grantees that unless they settled their grants with the foreigners required, within four years from the date of their grants, their grants would be void and the lands would revert to the Crown; and that declaration was also to inform other subjects, who wanted land, that if the grantees failed to settle their grants with foreigners, within the time specified, the land would be resumed by the Crown; and consequently would be at the disposal of Government for the settlement of other subjects. And no minister, on pain of death, could advise the Prince Regent to grant indulgence to defaulters, which would make the orders in Council a lie and a snare; or authorise such defaulters to lead other subjects into bondage, as tenants, so as to deprive them of the proceeds of their labor and industry—men who had a right to have been settled by the Crown. Now compare the constitutional authorities with the forged proclamation.

On reference to the constitutional authorities, who introduced the conditions in the grants to prevent the grantees making tenants of British subjects, it will be seen that the plan for the settlement of this Island was approved of by an Order in Council in 1764, when it was left until the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations had made the necessary preparations; and in the year 1767 their proceedings were approved of by an Order in Council, and Governor Patterson's power and authority to grant the land was given by King George the Third, under the great seal of Great Britain, and the grants of land by Governor Patterson are given under the seal of this Island; and as all these proceedings are on the authority of Orders in Council, authenticated by the great seal of Great Britain and the seal of this Island, you will allow they could not be altered by any less authority.

But the indulgence which is said to alter the conditions of the grants, has no authority: that I can see. It is said to be a communication from the Colonial Minister to Governor Smith, certified, not under the seal of this Island, like other proclamations, but under his seal at arms! And, although it is of no authority, yet it becomes a forgery by those who have made use of it to ensnare and defraud the inhabitants. I did not intend to have troubled you to publish any more letters for me, but as you have asserted that my letter of the 8th December, published in the *Islander* of the 29th, is not true, especially that part of it relating to the forged indulgence, it becomes my duty to show by proof, that the indulgence is of no authority whatever; and consequently becomes a forgery by those who pass it off as truth, for fraudulent purposes. I therefore send a copy of this to the papers which published my letter of the 8th December, to which this refers.

Sailor's Hope, Jan. 15, 1858.

Wm. COOPER.

DEAR SIR,—Some weeks since a copy of a journal published in Halifax, N. S.—the *Presbyterian Witness*—was handed me, containing a most false, vulgar, cowardly and utterly contemptible attack on the Rev. Charles Lloyd, lately Rector of Charlottetown, and on some members of his congregation who presented him a valdictory address on his resignation of his Cure. The despicable trash I allude to was too far beneath the contempt of any Christian gentleman to deserve notice. This evening I read in the *Protector* an extract from the *Witness*, casting some slight reflection on the Jockey Club lately formed in this Island, and more especially on its worthy patron—the Lieutenant Governor. Now, Sir, I doubt not the Club will be able to maintain its laudable endeavours to promote the glorious sport of horse-racing, and its patron, as the honored representative of his and our most gracious Sovereign, a dignified silence, in spite of the peculiarly unchristian and, one may say, diabolical slur cast on his religious profession.

I fear that "public morality" in this Island, though not quite "asleep," as your contemporary charitably suggests, is hardly well awake while it countenances such a virulent, sectarian, mischievous, bad-spirited, pitifully-conducted paper as the *Protector* of this city. Enough said. I will leave "Editor *Protector*" and his, their, or its, low blackguardism to "our rulers and their frowns." It is not easy to imagine what would or might be said or written supposing the Governor of Nova Scotia, or any of her "Honorables," "turned to" at organizing anything, when such an organization as the *Presbyterian Witness* is endured, in its immoral course of low-toned dissoluteness and unchristian Puritanism.

Hoping that my four year old colt, "Young Protestant," may bear patiently his sort of work "at our next autumn meeting, and that I have not "mistaken his mettle,"

I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,  
Ch. Town, Jan. 20, 1858. BOG TROTTER.

Ass in presentis perfectum format in Davy.  
—LAVIS GRAMMAR.

Horse-racing, the "sanctified" Editors say,  
In vice every other amusement surpasses;  
They forget all the tokens of vice they display,  
In proving each week they're a race of mere Asses.

At a public meeting at the Head of Hope River, Lot 22, held on the 26th instant, the following Petition was unanimously adopted and signed by those present:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN SESSION CONVENED.

The Petition of the inhabitants of Lot 22 and vicinity—

HUMBLE SHEWETH,—

That your petitioners are of opinion that the proposed Municipal Authorities to be established throughout this Island would not at present be beneficial, but injurious to the interests of the people. That the chief and almost entire productive industry of this Island is Agriculture. That owing to the new and infant state of the Colony, and the small proportion of its soil brought into cultivation, its resources are very limited. That the contemplated additional tax of five shillings per hundred acres on land, and two-pence on the pound on the annual value of certain other property, whilst adding to their burdens, would not, they believe, much more than pay the working expenses of an efficient municipal organization.

Your petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House to take the promises into consideration, and that your Honorable House will not impose municipal institutions on a people unwilling to receive them. And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Also, at the same meeting, the following Resolution was submitted and unanimously carried:—

Whereas the Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society have expressed their intention to petition the House of Assembly for a grant of money in aid of their Farm: And whereas the Society has drawn annually large sums from the Treasury of this Island; and as this meeting, whilst admitting its usefulness to a certain extent, is of opinion that the advantages and benefits accruing to the public are not equivalent to the legislative aid given to the said Society: And whereas the late and still existing monetary crisis in this and other countries is depressing the trade and resources of this Colony, and affecting (this meeting presumes) its revenue: Therefore resolved, that this meeting deem it expedient that no greater sum be granted to the aforesaid Society than shall be equal to the amount raised by it by subscription for the last year past, and that the inhabitants of this Township petition the House of Assembly to that effect.

Ordered, That the above Petition and Resolution be sent to one of the Island newspapers with a request to publish them, and that the others will be pleased to copy.

By order of the meeting,  
Jan. 27, 1858. ROBERT SIMPSON, Chairman.

GREAT FEED AT PEDDLINGTON.

Our worthy host of the Saint Eleanor's Hotel spread a sumptuous feast, a few weeks ago, for the hungry aristocrats of Peddlington. Among the distinguished on the occasion, we noticed Dick Dandy, Lord of Richmond, Count Dossey, A. Cock Sparrow, Esq., his grace Duke James, with many other notables of the "upper ten." After the disappearance of the viands, the cloth was removed, and the hot punch emitted its exhilarating odours. Lord Richmond, amid great jingling of glasses and stamping of feet, rose and addressed his admiring friends to the following effect: "Gentlemen—ahem—I say gentlemen—ahem—I am proud (hear, hear), I am extremely proud, gentlemen, (cheers), to see so many esteemed friends at the festive board this evening, the more especially as me and another gentleman, whom you all know and respect, undertook to provide you this substantial treat, which, I hope, will not destroy in any of us our relish for herring during the remainder of the season. I wish, gentlemen, to advert briefly to the present commercial crisis, fraught as it is with so many disastrous results to the nation. Gloomy as prospects are at present in the commercial world, I cannot refrain from congratulating myself on my having the foresight to forestall them and close a lucrative business. You must not think, gentlemen, that because I am back to the old quarters again, I have been driven here through necessity. You are aware that Mr. So-and-so, down the street, told me I was a conceited upstart—a mere parasite of the 'codfish aristocracy' of Peddlington—and that I had not as much brains as ear-wax, (applause); but you know us both, gentlemen. D—n the man, he is a thorn in our side."

His Grace Duke James then rose: "Gentlemen, it is with feelings of high gratification that I meet you here on this occasion, although I regret that the number present is much less than at our last annual festival. I do not know how to account for the absence of many friends who were invited. Times are hard, gentlemen. I may account for their non-appearance. As for myself, I am determined, so long as I can 'raise a band,' to meet our political friends on all occasions where a social glass can be procured and enjoyed, and where we can talk over political matters uninterrupted by these d—d Snatchers. Gentlemen, the time is at hand when it is to be decided whether the so-called Liberals are still to hold all the fat offices in the Island, or whether we are to have a finger in the pie. Should our party be again defeated, I have no doubt but the Island will lose some of its most useful and patriotic men. I, for one, will leave the country. Something must be done, gentlemen, without delay. Had we not better get up another Great Indignation Meeting, and admit none but our friends? My friend at my right will, I am sure, do all he can for us. In the mean time, let us fill our glasses and have a jolly good time."

We have been informed that our friend, the host, was surprised the following morning on finding two or three of the guests, who were his nearest neighbours, fast asleep under the table. One of them—the Duke James—awaking, and staring up "through muddy impurity," exclaimed, "Hilloa, missus, won't you give us more punch?" "Yes sir, yes," replied "mine host," and suiting the action to the word, punched him flank and rear out of the house.

St. Eleanor's, Jan. 15, 1858.

A WAITER.