limited by the obvious consideration, that a duty beyond a certain point becomes a prohibition. When wine or tea reaches a certain height they cease to be consumed by a majority, and what is gained in one way is lost in another. But the great resource is taxation, and to this we must resort without further delay. And we must raise two hundred millions of dollars annually, either directly, or through the medium of the several States. Nothing less than that will do.

This seems an enormous sum, and it is a great sum; but when we say that it is ten dollars a year for every man, woman, and child in the loyal States, it does not sound like an overwhelming burden.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives, address yourselves to this work. Leave off your idle and mischievous discussions about emancipation as a military necessity. The masters of the slaves have cut out a good piece of work for you to do, before you can come to the consideratin of the question how you will dispose of the slaves themselves. Lay such taxes as an honest nation should pay, and without which we shall soon come to the end of our resources, and be left with a bankrupt treasury. Do your duty, and the people will sustain you. Though the rich man shall feel it in his basket, and the poor man in his store, they will bear the burden which patriotism imposes.''

INDIGNATION IN ENGLAND AT THE STONE BLOCKADE.

The destruction of the port of Charleston by the sinking of vessels laden with masses of granite at its entrance, has caused great indignation in England. The Times, in the following article, considers that among the crimes which have disgraced the history of England, it would be difficult to find one more atrocious than this:—

"Satisfied with our deliverance from the war which threatened to arise out of the affair of the Trent, we would gladly leave the Federals and Confederates to their own devices, and think as little as possible of them and their doings. But the vindictive hostilities which prevails on American ground force themselves on our notice. Not only do they affect our interests as a nation, but they move our feelings as men. Wonder, pity, indignation, beset us when we hear of those immense armies, that ruinous expenditure, that desperate finance, that incessant partizan warfare without a result, and seemingly without a motive, the burning of towns and villages, the breaking down of bridges, the tearing up of railroads, and still worse tales, which, it is to be hoped, are in the main the exaggerations of fear or animosity. All those old reflections on the horrors of civil war which were the commonplaces of our boyhood, recur to the mind, and we realize how bitter and how sad were the words of the ancient historian or poet who spoke from the fresh memory of what his country had undergone. The ferocity and vindictiveness which has become in the present generation part of the American character, as shown by duels and assassinations, and atrocities on board ship, that almost pass belief, are now in full play in this unhappy strife. And as yet the passions of the combatants have hardly had scope. When the half-million of Northern soldiers are launched against their adversaries, we may look for deeds such as the warfare of hereditary rivals like England and France would never know.

"It is plain that the war for empire has already begun to be a war for vengeance. The design, as it appears at present, is twofold. There is the old theory that the South is merely for a time in the power of a band of traitors, who must be crushed, and then all will be well. To this the President and his advisers formally adhere, and will suffer no act to be done which seems to recognize a constitutional change. But a stronger and deeper current is setting in, which must soon sweep away these fictions of legality. The conquest, and, failing that, the destruction of a detested foe, succeeds as a design to that suppression of insurrectionary movements which a few months ago was the dream of the Federal Cabinet. If any one would learn the character which this war is assuming, let him read the accounts of the destruction of the port of Charleston as given in the latest news from America. Among the crimes which have disgraced the history of mankind, it would be difficult to find one more atrocious than this. The mind is astonished and appalled to learn that men who have been reared under the influence of religion, morality, and law, who have practised self-government, who have deified public opinion, who have made especial pretences to enlightenment, and even to refinement, should perpetrate a crime which barbarians acting only by the light of nature and the instincts of their own hearts would shrink from. Even the fierce tribes of the Desert will not destroy the well which gives life to an enemy. But here we have a Christian nation and a Government which professes to act from sentiments of 'the highest virtue,' ruthlessly planning the destruction of the principal harbor of a dangerous and stormy coast, choking up the outlet of a vast commerce, dooming one of the richest regions of the globe to ruin, and, as far as they can, cutting off millions of people from communication with the ocean which washes their coast. But, that we may not seem to misstate the act which has just been accomplished by the Federal commander of the 'stone fleet,' we will shortly describe what has been done at Charleston, and what it is intended to do at Savannah, and, if possible, at Mobile.

"An eye-witness writes,—'The main channel of approach to Charleston harbour has been destroyed. 'Sixteen stone-filled hulks, placed checkerwise across the passage, in the deepest water, just at the inner and outer edges of the bar, are the mediums through which this righteous retribution has been meted out.' 'The wrecks are not ranged in a right line across the channel. That arrangement might prove an effective blockade for a time, but not permanently. The 'scientific mind' of Captain Davis devised a plan to prevent the water from cutting another channel. 'The hulks are placed in three lines, checkerwise. 'This arrangement not only does not prevent the passage of water, but forms a series of shoals, around which the tide will whirl and eddy, making an intricate labyrinth which no vessel could navigate.' We forbear to speak of the hideous pleasantry in which this writer indulges while describing the vengeance of the Federal Government. We will confine ourselves merely to the fact which he narrates,—that the main entrance to the port of Charleston has been destroyed by sinking hulks filled with blocks of granite on the bar. This is the 'deed without a name' on which the world has now to pronounce its opinion. Let not any one say that the effect of the operation has been exaggerated, and that the 'stone fleet' will not do the permanent evil that is anticipated. We fear that the ingenuity of the Federals will succeed but too well. The Southern harbours are at all times subject to be blocked up by deposits of sand and mud. From this defect the harbour of Charleston is not free, and the navigation is as intricate as in the other ports of this low and swampy coast. What, then, must be the result of sinking vessels filled with masses of granite? Plainly it will be what the exulting Northerners expect—that wherever a ship has been sunk a shoal will be formed, and that the channel will be made permanently useless. As long as the hulks last, the entrance will be impassable, and, should they even be blown up or otherwise destroyed, the stones will sink in the bed of the channel, and be as irremovable as the foundation of Plymouth Breakwater.

"Against this violation of all the laws of war we cannot but protest. No belligerent has a right to destroy the great features of nature, to choke up the avenues by which populations communicate with the world without, and to deprive the mariner for ages of refuge from the perils of the sea. Charleston is the best, and, indeed, the only good harbour on a long line of coast, and to destroy the main entrance to it, is a deed which calls for the reprobation of every maritime state. When has such an act been perpetrated by any European Power? In the war against NAPOLEON it was declared that the English were the 'tyrants of the seas,' because they prohibited intercourse with the nations with which they were at war. But at least this was honestly done by the laborious blockade of the enemy's ports. During years of harassing warfare, Toulon and Brest and the other ports of the French Empire were watched by our squadrons, and, though the task was difficult and dangerous with the old sailing ships of the time, though for days an effective closing of a port might be prevented by a contrary wind, yet it never entered into the thoughts of men like Jarvis, and Nelson, and Collingwood, that they could save themselves trouble and their country expense by totally destroying the port they were set to watch. Yet what might not England, with her undisputed supremacy at sea, have effected, had she suffered herself to meditate such an iniquity? It is plain that every second-rate harbour on the continent, from the Elbe to the Bayonne, might have been thus destroyed forever by the British navy. But, though struggling for years against a gigantic adversary, we never thought of ruining the cities of Europe by a 'slight blight.' This savage innovation has been left to Republicans of our own day, and is first put in practice against a city, the people of which the officer who does the work would a few months since have addressed as citizens and countrymen. The fate which the Romans adjudged to vanquished Carthage, which one or two conquerors of the Middle Ages have meditated for some obstinately defended city, is now, in the 19th century, awarded by the North Americans to a community joined to them not only by the ties of race, language, and institutions, but, in hundreds of cases, by absolute relationship and family connexion.''

MADAGASCAR.

THE BRITISH ENBASSY TO THE NEW KING.

A member of the Embassy despatched to Madagascar for the purpose of congratulating King Radama II. on his accession to the throne, has given the following particulars:—Queen Banavalo died on the 16th of August. It appears to have been with some considerable difficulty that Prince Rakoto (now Radama II.) succeeded in asserting his claim to the throne and maintaining his right. He is the son of the late Queen, but no more like her than light to dark. He, in fact, errs in policy in an altogether opposite way, by being too lenient. An unsuccessful competitor for the throne, named Rambousalama, a cousin of the King, is in what the King is pleased to term "honourable captivity." It is certain that Rambousalama has adherents in the capital, if not in the King's palace, and should any revolution succeed, and Rambousalama attain his object, things will be worse than ever. The avowed desire of Rambousalama is to carry out the Queen's policy in all its horrible completeness. The experience of the Embassy goes far to substantiate thoroughly the statements made by former travellers with regard to the wholesale massacres perpetrated under the Queen's authority. One officer, high in rank, told me that during a very few years that he had been engaged in active service he had seen, in the aggregate, at least 100,000 men put to death after successful actions. No prisoners were kept; the men were immediately slaughtered in a systematic way, 1,000 at a time, and the women and children were sold as slaves. The persecutions among the Christians are really astonishing. Chain gangs of from 15 to 20 hapless beings used to perambulate the country, dependent upon chance for subsistence. When death relieved one of them from his grievous burden of life the vacant chain was dragged about by the remainder, and this continued until the chain had done its cruel work. It is difficult to ascertain how many Christians were put to death; some say 2,000, others a great many more. They were usually crucified, being bound on with cords, and stoned while on the cross. The arrival of the Embassy at Tamatave had been announced at Antananarivo by special courier, and we were met by a deputation sent to escort us to the dwellings we were to occupy during our stay. The officers composing it were five in number; three of them were officers of the Palace, each dressed in a fancy uniform, consisting of a blue velvet tail coat, with gold lace in profuse abundance, black cocked hat, with plumes of red and white feathers, and dark coloured trousers, with broad gold stripe. Horses were brought from the captial for us to ride, that being intended as an especial honour. Until we reached the foot of the hill on the summit of which the city stands, we were followed and hedged in by the wondering populace. It was quite a novel sight for them. For 30 years no European had reached the capital with the good will of the Sovereign, much less at his invitation. The people were clad in the simple flowing white garment known as the lamba. When we commenced to ascend the lookers-on contrived to perch themselves on the high steep bank between which the approach to the city had been made. They seemed, so to speak, piled on each other in order to get a satisfactory view of us as we passed. About halfway from the capital we were met by another deputation, accompanied by a body of soldiers in scarlet uniform, and a band of music. We halted while the body of troops were drawn up and presented arms. The band played "God save the Queen" while we were all standing, dissolving under the vertical rays of the sun. No description of Antananarivo has yet been published which conveys at all an adequate idea of its appearance. The most prominent object is the Palace, which is an astonishing structure. In consequence of the death of the Queen, and the Court still being in mourning, no person is permitted to enter it. It is three stories high, with a roof of immensely lofty pitch, surmounted by an eagle, with expanded wings, executed in bronze. There are massive wooden balconies, corresponding to each story, with heavy balustrades painted red. The shutters are arranged so that no opening can be seen, and fitted so perfectly that we could form no idea how many windows or doors there were. The pillars supporting the balconies are enormously heavy-looking, and are said to consist each of one piece of wood. It is difficult to estimate what the population of Antananarivo can be. No information could be obtained on that point. I should imagine it to be about 30,000. The view from the heights is very extensive, but bounded on all sides by high mountains. Rice fields are numerous in the vicinity of the capital, but there is, nevertheless, a sterile appearance consequent upon the absence of all trees. There is not a tree for 30 miles in any direction around Antananarivo. It is said that all the forest within that distance was cut down in order to prevent a hostile force from drawing near and finding the capital unprepared through ignorance of its approach. When we at last entered the capital we had to thread our way, accompanied by the officers and a multitude, which contrived to disperse itself into every nook and corner available for the purpose of overlooking us, the tops of mud walls being preferred. All this time a deafening noise was going on—a Babel of many voices—each individual voice being used *con amore*; and although the officers did their utmost to calm the enthusiasm of the populace by administering energetic kicks on all sides, yet I am bound also to state that the obedience they met with was not such as I should have imagined the persuasive character of the late Queen would have inculcated. The King received the mission most cordially. He inquired repeatedly after the health of Her Majesty, and desired the Chief Secretary to make inquiries about Viscount Palmerston, who seems an especial favourite at Madagascar. The King is short in stature, and has a mild amiable countenance. The Queen, who was present both at the first and final receptions of the mission, has a most intelligent face, a high forehead, and a head well set on. She carries herself with a becoming natural dignity. It has been currently reported that the King is a Christian. It is premature to say so now, but there is ground to hope that he will become so. At present he professes a sort of Deism. Since the King's accession a school has been established at Antananarivo, and, considering the short time it has been established, it bids fair to be productive of great good. There were 80 children; they were taught to read and write, and a few of them were making progress in English, under the tuition of a Malgache schoolmaster.

RUSSIA.

A NEW SEBASTOPOOL IN THE NORTH PACIFIC.

By accounts received at St. Petersburgh, *via* Siberia, it appears that Russia is at present attempting to found a second Sebastopool in the North Pacific Ocean. In the straits of Corea are to be found two little islands, called North and South Tsu-sima, geographically belonging to the Japanese Archipelago, and subject from time immemorial to the Empire of Japan. A St. Petersburg letter of the 27th says:—"Whilst Admiral Sir James Hope was lately taking a cruise in her Majesty's ship Ringdove, having heard favourable accounts of the natural advantages and capabilities of these islands and their sheltered harbour, he determined to look in there, and he did so; but it was with the greatest wonder and astonishment that, on doubling the cape that shuts out the sea form view, he found three Russian frigates at anchor, who seemed to have made themselves quite as much at home in the island as if they were at Cronstadt. Bustle and activity prevailed everywhere on shore, boats were drawn up on the beach and undergoing repairs, stores were being landed and warehoused, sailors were exercising with small arms, and, to crown all, the Imperial flag of Russia was floating from the summit of the buildings, which were separated from the native town, and surrounded by strong defensive works."

CRUEL PUNISHMENT OF MICHAL MIKLAILOFF.—The *Police Gazette* of St. Petersburg has an account of the public degradation in that city of Michael Miklailoff, found guilty of propagating writings intended to excite rebellion against the supreme power. The unfortunate man has been sent for six years' labour in the mines. Miklaioff is said to have submitted to the ceremony, which takes place on a scaffold, a sword being formally broken over his head, &c., with great courage. A subscription has been made amongst literary people of St. Petersburg on behalf of the condemned, and the sum of 4,800 crowns has been raised to enable him to ride the journey to Siberia.

BRIGHTFUL ATROCITY.—A landowner near Poltask has been assaulted and killed in his own house by his peasants. The wretches, it appears, broke into the man's house in great numbers, armed with scythes, and nearly cut him through, yet their fury was not satisfied at seeing him fall Like true cannibals, they treated his body in a most savage manner. They scalped him, picked out his eyes, tore out his tongue, cut off his nose, and after dragging his mutilated trunk about their village yelling like fiends, they cut it in pieces. I saw a gentleman who told me he heard the particulars of this horrid scene from his sister, in whose house the deceased's wife took refuge with her child after her husband's death. It is said that some days before the dreadful act a gang of Muscovite soldiers passed that way, and excited the peasants to this horrid deed.

FROM HAVANA.

LATER NEWS FROM VERA CRUZ AND NASSAU.—TOTAL LOSS OF A BRITISH SHIP OF THE LINE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Steamship "Columbia," from Havana 18th has arrived. Sugars dull and declining; stock in port, 25,000 boxes. Molasses in moderate demand. Exchange declining: sterling, 12¾ a 13 prem.; on New York 1 a 2¼ discount.

Mexican news to the 10th has been received.

Communications with the interior are cut off. A regiment of Spanish troops started on the 4th on the Medillion road for a reconnoissance. They were driven back, after proceeding a mile, by an unseen foe.

Our correspondent says Vera Cruz is surrounded landward and almost besieged. No vegetables or fuel can reach the city, and many articles of prime necessity are sadly needed. Many Spanish soldiers are sick, and there are many desertions. There are great fears of an attack on Vera Cruz. Several Spanish sentinels have been shot.

An American vessel, the Beautiful Star, [there is no American vessel of this name] had arrived at Vera Cruz with 4000 guns and 300 pounds of powder, &c., for the Mexican Republic. This was seized by the Spaniards, as also a small lot of arms on board another brig. More are expected, which will also be confiscated. The English, French and Spanish flags wave over the Castle, the French and English fleets having arrived. Gen. Prime was also at Vera Cruz.

There is considerable discontent among the French and English at the want of courtesy in the advance of the allied expedition not having hoisted the three flags at first.

Three thousand men were to make a sortie, to endeavour to clear the environs of Vera Cruz, that the market might be supplied with fresh provisions. Most of the French troops had disembarked.

Nassau dates of the 12th state that the English ship-of-war Conqueror will be a total loss. The crew had reached Nassau; also forty cannon. The 'Gladiator' was still in port, with a cargo of arms, etc.

Schr. Whirlwind, with a cargo of mahogany and hides from Tampico, intended to run the blockade at Charleston, but was wrecked.

The American Consul has sold the coal brought to Nassau for Federal vessels, but which they were not allowed to take, to the British authorities.

The gunboat Santiago de Cuba was at Havana.

There was great activity among the troops at Havana, and it was reported that they were to be sent to Vera Cruz. Several cases of insubordination had occurred among them, and 3 non-commissioned officers were killed. The murderers had been publicly garroted.

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We have our regular file of papers from these distant British possessions with dates to the 3d Dec. Before noticing anything relating to gold we copy the following from the 'Colonist, of Dec. 3rd relative to the scarcity of unmarried ladies in the Colony of Victoria:—

INDUCEMENTS TO FAMILIES TO SETTLE IN VICTORIA.—New countries are far more favourable to matrimony than old ones. Their rapid growth usually affords better opportunities to provide for the wants of a family than old and thickly settled communities; and consequently the venerable institution of matrimony is more highly prized. If we wished to prove this doctrine, all we need do would be to cite the fact that within three years there have been twenty-five marriages contracted by bachelors who resided on each side of Yates street, between Government and Wharf streets, a distance of not more than six hundred and fifty feet. We think this might be set down as a very remarkable instance of the inclination that exists here to quit the realm of bachelordom to enjoy the sweets of connubial felicity. And further, it is an index of the success which has attended industry and enterprise in our town. We might step outside of the limited area alluded to and enumerate many more who have perpetrated matrimony, were it our object to furnish the matrimonial statistics of the town since 1858. But we have merely cited this example to show how favourable this country is to the increase of families. We have, however, one very serious drawback: that is, the scarcity of unmarried females. And for several years to come in all probability the demand will be far greater than the supply. No sooner does an unmarried woman arrive here than a host of admirers offer to make her happy for life. When one of these is not acceptable it is generally attributable to the operation of a well known law of trade—that where there is a scarcity of an article in the market it always commands high rates, and some invariably refuse to sell until they get the highest price. We say no blame to the ladies. Still, as we have at least a thousand young men willing to get married, the scarcity of unmarried females is an inducement for parents having large families to make this town their home. Before the election of the present Legislature, one member for the town canvassed the electors with a promise to bring out from England or elsewhere a cargo of damsels. There may be some doubts whether that was the great means by which he got elected; but there can be no doubt at all that if he had fulfilled his promise he would have proved a father to his country. One thing, however, is very certain—that society here and throughout these Colonies will prove shiftless for a long time, except Government or somebody else provides wives for our young men."

GOLD AT CARIBOO.—The Colonist of November 26th says:—The steamer Caledonia, Captain Frain, has arrived from New Westminster, with seventy-six passengers and $60,000 in gold dust. One man, a miner from one of the numerous auriferous creeks at Cariboo, came ashore with a leathern bag containing $12,000. The same old story of rich diggings is repeated by the passengers.

The same paper has the following:—

FROM CARIBOO.—Considerable excitement was occasioned in town yesterday by the arrival of parties from the Cariboo mines to British Columbia, with immense quantities of gold. One party of three had $80,000. Fred Kohler has in his possession several rich specimens, amounting to $100, from the mines. Several parties have experienced a severe attack of the "gold fever" and will soon start for Cariboo, which is in a frozen region.—*San Francisco Call, Nov. 3.*

If the arrival of the Pacific on the 2nd inst., with about $150,000, created so much stir at the Bay, what will happen when the steamer which left here on Tuesday with $400,000 gets down? Why, we shall have half San Francisco here by the Spring.

A GOOD CLAIM.—An Oregonian named Brown yesterday sold his claim on Williams' Creek for the sum of $15,000. Its size is one hundred feet square.

DEPARTURE OF THE PACIFIC.—The steamship Pacific went to sea yesterday morning, from Esquimault, at 9 o'clock. She had on board nearly 200 miners and others, as passengers from this place, and 120 U. S. soldiers from the Sound. Wells, Fargo & Co. shipped $205,998 in gold dust. The total shipment, including the amounts in private hands, will reach $400,000!!

The steamer Otter, with 125 passengers, and gold dust, estimated in the aggregate at $300,000, arrived on Tuesday. Several of the passengers were heavily laden with the precious metal. One trader had $25,000, and twelve miners from Cariboo possessed sums varying from $3000 to $12,000 each. The news never was better, although mining has ceased at Cariboo for the season. The accounts brought by returning miners of their next year's prospects are very exciting, and of such a nature as to seriously disturb the equilibrium of the most phlegmatic temperament. Even 20 or 30 Chinamen—several of them all the way from Cariboo—speak well of the country; something new for John. One of their number, who has owned a rich claim on the Quesnelle, is reported to have nearly $8000 in dust, which he dug out during the summer from a place where no one supposed more than living wages were to be obtained.

The returning miners are unanimous in their opinion that no inexperienced person should leave here for the mines before the 1st of next June. The diggings are nearly cleaned out of men. About 200 persons remain to watch the claims or flume the large creeks. The Lower River towns are full of miners, many of whom intend staying there for the winter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW BRUNSWICK AFFAIRS.

The successive arrival and movements of numerous bodies of British troops upon our shores engross public attention to such a degree that matters, at other times of deep consideration, now sink into insignificance. Almost every week, during the last two months, brings new accessions of forces and military stores for conveyance by overland to Canada. Never did St. John appear so gay, so stirring and enthusiastic as it has for the past six weeks, and as it is likely to continue for the remainder of the winter.

Absorbed with the contemplation of practically experiencing the wild glories of the battle-field, its triumphs and reverses, and our ears regaled with the exciting strains of martial music and a superabundance of patriotic declamation—which is at no time a very scarce article—we find ourselves gliding through a winter not remarkable for the severity or mildness of its temperature, and in spring the valiant Volunteers to be denied the gratification of having measured swords with the Yankees. This, however, I should be inclined to think, will not be lamented, after deducting the loyalty of rhetoric from the bravery of personal daring.

Every building calculated to afford accommodation to a company of soldiers has been furnished by the civic authorities, and by private citizens, to be converted into a temporary Barracks. Banquets on the most extensive scale, and compounds of the most palatable ingredients, are being given to the troops, preparatory to their departure for Canada. At those entertainments, wit, beauty, eloquence and sentiments of loyalty add to the variety of the proceedings, and find opportunities of manifesting their respective 'peculiarities,' and of persuading the British officers that New Brunswick is not a city of Halifax, nor St. John the capital of Montreal. The largest, and I believe the best, of those festivals came off yesterday afternoon in a capacious building appropriated for the shelter of the rail cars, but now a military depot. The guests on this occasion were the Scots Fusileer Guards, under the command of Colonel Dalrymple. The men were all dressed in scarlet uniform, accompanied by their band and bagpipes, which discoursed at intervals national and other songs. The pipes screamed wildly, and made the ladies titter a good deal, but no other injury was caused by its presence. Over nine hundred soldiers at dinner. The address of welcome was spoken by the Hon. the Solicitor General, and replied to by the commanding officer. These were followed by speeches from the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, Col. the Hon. J. H. Gray, of the Volunteers, Skinner, M. P. P., and other minor celebrities in the art of self-glorification. The appearance and collateral circumstances—to use a peculiar phrase—of the feast, were in a high degree creditable to those with whom it originated, and elicited compliments from the officers, who cheered most heartily for the ladies in attendance, whose beauty the morning papers declare to be unrivalled in British America. It would be cruel, if not unjust, to criticize the correctness of this opinion. I will, therefore, allow it to pass by without comment. Whether such attention to all the soldiers that are expected here before the spring will be extended to them, time must determine.

It is reported that two English officers, attached to the garrison station at Woodstock, have deserted to the Federal Government, and received high commissions in the army of that country.

At the meeting of the new House of Assembly on the 12th of February, we may expect to hear of some stratagem to oust the present Executive; and that such an overthrow will occur is by no means improbable. The Conservatives will have two able and determined supporters in Mr. Anglin and the late Attorney General; but I suppose a distribution of some petty offices amongst the new members or their friends will secure a political unanimity amongst the Liberals.

The legal profession has lost one of its brightest ornaments in the decease of Geo. J. Thomson, Q. C. at St. Stephen's, who was also Judge of Probate for Charlotte County. The deceased was brother of the well known Barrister, S. R. Thomson, Esqr., of this place, and was admitted to be one of the most eloquent and unflinching advocates at the New Brunswick Bar.

P. E. I.

St. John, 24th January, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—On the 13th January last, the Grand Jury made a presentment to the Supreme Court, then sitting, against William Walter Irving, of Charlottetown, for fraud and embezzlement to a very large amount. It appears the time of the Attorney General being fully occupied by other bills, he could not prepare the indictment, or get the case ready for trial in the January Court; he therefore applied to the Judges to issue their warrant for the apprehension of the accused, and have him bound on sufficient bail, to take his trial at the next sitting of the Criminal Court in June.

Their Lordships, however, declined doing so, upon the ground, that as he was ready to take his trial in the Court then sitting, it would be unjust to make him find bail for his appearance on a future day, and they, therefore, merely bound him in his own recognizance to surrender and take his trial in the next Court.

I believe in almost all cases where only personal bail is required, the offences are of so trifling a nature that any other security would be superfluous; but in this case, where the charges are of a very grave and important character, involving public justice, as well as private rights, embracing a very large amount of criminality, as well as of moral turpitude, and brought to the notice of the Court by no less authority than the Grand Jury!—surely in such a case there should be demanded more stringent security than the personal bail of the accused, which is known to be of little value. Had the Grand Jury made a presentment to the Court against a house-breaker, pick-pocket, or any other rogue or sharper, would the judges have set him at liberty to pursue his vocation for six months longer upon his own personal bail, as they have done in this instance, merely because the prosecutor was not, from the weighty engagements of the Crown Officer, ready to put him upon his trial immediately after the finding of the presentment and in a case of much legal nicety? Supposing an unfortunate debtor for £20 is arrested and cannot find bail, what is his fate? Does he go to prison, or is he discharged on his own recognizances, supposing the plaintiff or creditor cannot immediately file his declaration?

I ask this question for the purpose of placing in the strongest possible light the discrepancy between the practice of criminal and civil law in this community, in the hope of seeing it withdrawn for the future, for it cannot consist with the welfare of society that the poor but honest man shall be hurried to jail for a small debt which he cannot pay or find bail for, while the violator of all commercial morals and confidence is permitted to be at large, because the pursuers in both cases are unable to take, instantly, the next step in their legal procedure.

Mr. Editor, in addressing to you this communication, I disclaim in the strongest terms any intention to reflect upon the learned Judges who administered the law on this occasion; I simply wish to place the facts of the case before the public for their guidance, and in the hope that some means may be devised by which this monstrous anomaly between the civil and criminal systems may be removed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ROBT. A. FELLOWES.

Binstead, Feb. 8, 1862.

"And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew."
GOLDSMITH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In your last issue I find a letter signed "James McNeill," of Canoe Cove, purporting to be an answer to a *communication* of mine which appeared in the 'Islander' of the 10th ult.

Will you grant me a small place for a few remarks. I am not about to enter into controversy with Mr. McNeill; far from it. I should be departing from the principles I laid down in the communication which has so aroused his ire. In addition, I could not experience

"That stern joy which warriors feel,
In foemen worthy of their steel."

To enter the lists with such an opponent would be a complete waste of time, and victory would bring no honour to me. I have, however, achieved some good — James's last letter, though equally *incoherent* with the rest, is much shorter. I am thankful, as we all should be, for *small* blessings.

What I have to say, briefly, is this — Mr. McNeill, with intuitive sagacity, has described me as "Chantieleer, *alias* A—— E——." For a schoolmaster, I learn that he has committed many mistakes, but the last is the worst. *I have not the honour of Mr. McNeill's personal acquaintance*; I only know him by his lucubrations; and as they are made public, he becomes public property. I therefore ventured a *remonstrance*, that has called forth a reply—(which, by the date, must at least have taken a week to compile)—the sting of which is, that I am "A—— E——." When I came to *the last verse in the last epistle of James*,

"My lungs began to crow like chanticleer,s."

The rest of the quotation Mr. McNeill may find in Shakspeare's "As you Like It," and in page 383 of the "Fifth Book of Lessons," with which he ought to be better acquainted.

I beg him to bear no malice to "A—— E——" on *my* account. In fact, "James McNeill" ought to apologise to his vowel friend (!) for the egregious mistake he has made. And in conclusion, I would advise him to stick to his scholars, and not set himself up as a public instructor — the first *may* gain a doubtful advantage, but the latter can neither be amused nor instructed by him.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.
CHANTICLEER.

Charlottetown, Feb. 7, 1862.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

LINES ON THE LOSS OF THE LATE JOHN MCISAAC, lost from on board the schooner 'Telegraph,' on the 11th December last, on her way from St. Peter's, P. E. Island, to St. John's, N. F.

Companion of my early days,
With whom in heart allied,
I walked in friendship's happy ways
Around St. Peter's tide.

But ne'er again alas we'll hear
His clear melodious voice;
The Lord on high has called for him
With angels to rejoice.

His aged parents wrung with grief,
Both night and day must weep,
For their hope, their pride, their main support
Is lying in the deep.

Remembrance weep, alas, in vain—
Are sorrow's emblems shed;
We can't restore the youth again;
We can't restore the dead.

No more in bonds of friendship true,
Like friends locked hand in hand,
Again shall we rove to view
The sea, the sky, the land.

For he who shared my youthful joys,
Cut off in manhood's bloom,
In yonder deep blue sea he lies,
The rolling wave his tomb.

Alas the thought my bosom rends,
And sorrow's tears must flow;
Death strikes our nearest, dearest friends
When least we fear the blow.

But faithful memory long retains
Each fondly cherished name,
And this dear one while life remains
The pensive tear shall claim.

A FRIEND.

St. Peter's Bay, Jan. 26, 1862.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 10, 1862.

THE LATE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESENT ONE CONTRASTED.

THERE has been a marked change in the tone of the 'Islander' ever since Mr. Howe, in August last, exposed the sham results of the great Land Commission. The members of the Government have never been able to conceal their chagrin at the circumstance of Mr. Howe giving the explanation which he did; and deep, and sometimes loud, have been the curses which they indulged at his expense. *Before* Mr. Howe's visit to the Island in August, the general cry with the Tory party everywhere was: "Behold what Colonel Gray and the Government have done for the tenantry! Their great influence with the proprietors and the Colonial Office has enabled them to secure a Commission under which the tenantry can become freeholders on the easiest terms, besides having all their back-rents remitted." This was the burthen of incessant twaddle in the House of Assembly during the last two Sessions — the 'Islander' and 'Monitor' teemed with trash of the same import — addresses to the Lieut. Governor were manufactured in Charlottetown by the dozen, and His Excellency was advised to undertake journeys in every direction, to bear the mortification of having them read to him, and to lend the influence of his high office to encourage and propagate the delusion. *After* Mr. Howe's explanation, the practice of presenting addresses for the purpose of glorifying the Commission suddenly went out of fashion. Not one address has been presented to the Lieut. Governor since, in which the least allusion was made to the Commission. The 'Islander' has descended from the lofty tones of laudation of the Commission to the humble accents of apology. "It is not, indeed"—(such is the spirit of its whine during the last six months)—"all that we expected from the Commission; but still it will do a great deal of good, if the people will only put faith in it." "Let them wait patiently for the award—it may be a great deal better than Mr. Howe's explanation would make it appear; and if there are any defects in it, they can be amended by an Act of the Legislature;—the arbitration clause can be so moulded by the House of Assembly as to make it work to the entire advantage of the tenantry." Then the tune was changed when it was seen that all this nonsense had no effect on the minds of the people but to disgust them more and more with the deceptious Government. The 'Islander' then exclaimed, "the Government have not received the award, nor any information concerning it;—we believe," adds the organ, "that it will be strangled, as a partial escheat was, thirty years ago, and the country may blame the proprietors and the Liberals for the act." This declaration, which is substantially the same as appeared in the 'Islander' two or three weeks ago, furnishes a fine commentary on the extent of influence possessed by our Government over the absentee proprietors and the Colonial Office. Messrs. Palmer, Gray & Co. were the men of mark and influence who were to do wonderful things for the suffering tenantry—they were the fearless champions of the people who were to storm Downing Street, and lead the Cunards, Sullivans and Montgomerys into a ready acquiescence in their views!! The Liberals, poor creatures, we were told, could do nothing — they had no influence in any quarter, either with the Minister or the landholders.

It is not necessary to narrate the history of the few short years the Liberals spent in office to show what they accomplished in spite of the dreaded proprietary influence. Their principal measures may be sketched in a few words. They broke down an odious family compact party, backed by proprietory influence — a party the most despotic in its sway and the most arrogant in its pretensions that was ever tolerated in any of the Colonies, — on the ruins of that party they built up a system of Government as free as could be found in any part of the world, which left nothing for the people to desire, and which, in fact, made the people the masters of their rulers instead of the slaves they formerly were; — they removed irresponsible officials, who snapped their fingers in the face of the constituencies—who treated with contempt the remonstrances of their representatives in Parliament—who regarded the public treasury as an object of legitimate spoil, and squandered the revenues intended for the public good in serving private ends. They (the Liberals) introduced the system of auditing the accounts of the several departments in receipt of taxes, by means of which rapacity was checked, and officials were rendered comparatively honest; — indeed, the whole financial system of the Colony underwent vigilant supervision as soon as the Liberals took the reins of Government; and in two or three years, instead of seeing the Island with a very large debt and a small revenue, they could proudly contemplate it rising from its thraldom with a full treasury, a rapidly increasing revenue, and a debt fading into insignificance. All the industrial resources of the Colony received the most ample encouragement at their hands—Agricultural Societies were projected and liberally endowed under their administration—the fisherman was cheered in his laborious and perilous enterprise by liberal appropriations—and numerous rivers and bays, hitherto closed to the navigation of foreigners, bore upon their bosoms richly laden vessels from the States, and their hitherto quiet shores resounded with the hum of industry; the wilderness retreated, and the broad acres blossomed as the rose under the magic influence of an active and prosperous commerce.

Public works of the most useful kind were also an object of special consideration with the Liberals. *As evidence of this*—without taking into account everything that has been done in Charlottetown—and it would be easy to show that a vast amount of work has been done here,—we may point to the costly and substantial bridges that have been erected in the three Counties; bridges at Souris and the East Point; wharfs at Cardigan, Launching and Grand River; bridges at Rustico and Fyfe's ferry; several wharfs on the Hillsborough River; the costly ferry wharf at the foot of Prince street; the Pownal street wharf, nearly rebuilt; the Darnley bridge, and Cascumpec bridge; the light-houses on Panmure Island and in Richmond Bay; the great number of new roads opened in every direction; and, in short, a great many other things of the most useful character will occur to the recollection of any person who has made himself acquanted with the condition of the country during the last ten years.

The Liberals also performed another valuable service in the cause of civil liberty by placing the elective franchise on the broadest basis, so that labour and industry should be represented as well as property in the making of those laws by which all alike are to be governed. How different was the conduct of their predecessors—the old Compact Government, when Sir Donald Campbell was at the head of affairs, and when the Liberals were making rapid strides towards the accomplishment of their object, the introduction of the Responsible system! It was then proposed, in a secret despatch to the British Government, to destroy even the very limited franchise which the people then possessed. The Tories—at the head of whom was the leader of the present Government, the Hon. E. Palmer—prepared a Bill, and sent it with the secret despatch to England, in the confident expectation of having it smuggled through the Imperial Parliament, by which Bill no tenants would be allowed to vote at elections unless they had leasehold property to the value of £300 and were 20 years in possession,—freeholders were required to have a large property qualification—candidates for the Assembly were also required to have such a property qualification as scarcely any but the large proprietors possessed, who toiled not for the acquisition of their broad acres, neither did they pay the British Government any equivalent for their bestowal. In fine, it was the aim of the Tories to establish a proprietory Government of the most despotic kind, and they trusted to their influence with the proprietors for success in their design.

Let us contrast the conduct of the Government of 1851 with the Administration of the present day, in reference to the purchase of public lands. When the Liberals passed the Purchase Bill, and bought the Worrel Estate—in which transaction the present Colonial Secretary acted the part of forestaller through his influence with old Mr. Worrell, by which the Government had to pay several thousand pounds more for the property than would otherwise have been the case—there was a fierce outcery against the measure from the ranks of the Tory party. It was unjust, they said, to buy land in one particular section of country when the inhabitants of the whole Island would have to contribute towards the payment of it; besides, they contended, no purchase should be made before a Court of Enquiry was first established to try the validity of the titles; and they clamoured and wrangled for their "Court of Enquiry"—although they would sooner cut off their right hand than see it in operation—with a zeal worthy of the most inveterate escheator. They denounced the purchase in every form of invective, and they declared that the only way to save the country from embarrassment was to sell off the Government lands at public auction as speedily as possible, and close the office of the Commissioner, whose salary, in connexion with the working expenses of the office, entailed a heavy outlay. To close that office, and render the Purchase Bill a dead letter, was one of the first things they promised to do when they should come into power. But the office was considered too good a political bait to be destroyed. Mr. D. Maclean was to be rewarded by its possession for the service he had done the Tories as editor of the 'Islander.' Death, however, interfered to deprive the faithful servant of his hire; and Mr. Aldous was permitted to sell his seat in the Legislative Council for the questionable honour of stepping into the dead man's shoes. The purchase of the Selkirk Estate soon after occurred; it was followed by the worst speculation that was ever undertaken—the purchase of the Stanfield estate, Lot 54. There was no talk, then, about a Court of Enquiry to try the titles of those properties—no outcry about the injustice of making industrious freeholders pay taxes to acquire property for lazy and thriftless tenants. But what was worse than all—the Government refused to make known to the Legislature the correspondence which led to the purchase of the two properties in question. The Government, indeed, went through the empty formality of submitting the question to the House of Assembly whether they should buy the Selkirk estate,—both parties in the House agreed that it should be bought, and they certainly expected that they would be made fully acquainted with the terms and details of the negotiation. They were told that it was a private transaction, and the correspondence could not be exposed. *A private transaction indeed!* when thousands of pounds of the *public* money had to be given for it!! The same answer was returned to the application for the correspondence that led to the purchase of Lot 54. That speculation—which was desired by nobody — which the very poor settlers on Lot 54 never dreamed of asking for—which was entered into without the knowledge or consent of the Legislature—and which will, no doubt, prove a dead loss to the Colony—is so indefensible that the Government have steadily refused to communicate the smallest particle of information respecting it; and we are consequently as much in the dark regarding the advantage which the public might be supposed to derive from its acquisition as part of the public domain, as if it were situated in the heart of China. Then as to the mode of paying for the Selkirk and Lot 54 estates. The law under which they were purchased provides that payment shall be made in debentures bearing *five* per cent. interest, payable in a certain number of years; but instead of giving debentures, the Government issued Treasury Warrants, bearing *six* per cent. interest, which had to be paid before their turn: thus taking from the Treasury cash that should have been reserved for the discharge of older obligations. If the Liberals had acted in this reckless manner, their opponents would never have ceased to assail them in the most violent terms; and, indeed, there would have been such a storm of indignation amongst the very supporters of a Liberal Government as to have rendered it impossible for them to retain power in view of such conduct.

As regards the encouragement given to Education by the Liberals and Conservatives, let us see how that account stands. The Liberals had the credit of introducing the free system, which has never yet been attempted in the older and wealthier Colonies. The poor man—who had to pay five or ten pounds a year for the education of his children, when school-houses were few and far between, when teachers were ill-qualified, ill-paid for their services, and, even incompetent as they were, not easy to be had sometimes,—can now get a good education for his children without any outlay but a mere, inconsiderate trifle in the shape of land tax, which falls upon the absent land proprietor, who has no children here to educate, as well as upon the tenant. During the eight years the Liberals were in power they appropriated to the service of education £70,000 *more than their predecessors had done in a similar period*. And this heavy outlay was borne without burthening the Colony with new taxes. Twenty two thousand pounds were paid for public lands during the same time, as well as the large sums paid for the great public works above referred to; and still the public debt, at the end of the Liberal Administration, was only nine thousand pounds more than it was when that Administration was formed. When the present Government came into office they raised the tax on imported articles about one fourth more than they had been,—they have added, we believe, nearly forty thousand pounds to the public debt—the 'Islander' admits that even during the last year alone the debt has been increased to the extent of about seven thousand pounds, but we think it will be found to be nearer ten thousand; and now it is proposed by the organ of the Government to levy a further tax of ten thousand pounds upon the people of this Colony, to meet the charge for education, without any promise of improvement in our educational system.

Now, what has been done by the Tory Government in return for the enormous debt they have accumulated *in less than three years*—for the increase of taxation in the shape of impost duties to the extent of one fourth more than the people had to pay under the Liberal Government, and for the further and most odious tax of ten thousand pounds which they threaten to impose on the inhabitants of this Island? We have seen no public works they have constructed. They have repaired, indeed, the old rat-trap of an Academy, to which they have given the imposing name of a College, without making it a more serviceable institution than the Academy was in its best days; they bought two estates under an Act passed by the Liberal Government, which they had denounced as a ruinous measure; and they have refused to let the people know all the terms on which the purchases were effected, and for which the money of the people has been so freely paid. We do not expect the 'Islander,' or any other apologist of the Government, will answer our question, and show what good deeds have been done by the party in power; but we shall, in another article, contrast their promise with their performance in other things as well as those to which we have herein adverted.

Public Meetings in Queen's County.

MEETING AT MONAGHAN SETTLEMENT.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of the Monaghan Settlement, called by the Hon. George Coles, to ascertain the opinions of his constituents in that quarter respecting the Land Commissioners' Award, was held at the house of Mr. Owen Simpson, in the above named settlement, on Tuesday last, between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock. Notwithstanding the cold weather and the very bad roads, there was a very large assemblage of persons on this occasion. John A. McDonald, Esqr., J. P., was appointed Chairman. The meeting was first addressed by Mr. Coles, who explained the principles of the Award as made known by Mr. Howe, which, he considered, would place the tenants in a worse condition than they were before the Commission was appointed; but he left it for his constituents to decide whether they would accept the Award or not, in the event of it ever being submitted to the Legislature, which was extremely doubtful; and it was still more doubtful whether it would ever affect the tenants by whom he was surrounded, as their landlord had never concurred in the appointment of the Commission.—The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Hon. Francis Kelly, by the Hon. E. Whelan, and by James McDonald, Esqr., and Francis McQuaid, Esqr.—The following resolutions, prepared by a Committee appointed for the purpose at the place of meeting—were then proposed and unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Mr. Angus (Ban) M'Donald, seconded by Mr. Robert Webster:—

Whereas the tenantry of this Island have been anxious for many years to obtain a settlement of the Land Question, and various plans have been devised with a view to the accomplishment of that object, the only one that was likely to be attended with general success being the Purchase Bill. And whereas that measure has removed proprietary influence from nearly 200,000 acres of Township lands, and has afforded great relief to the tenants thereon settled, by remitting all arrears of rent due by them, and enabling them to buy their farms at a price per acre of about one-half the sum which landholders would be entitled to exact under the Award of the Land Commission, without sacrificing any interests conceded to the Colony under the Civil List Bill; and this meeting believes that many other estates might have been purchased and disposed of to actual settlers on equally advantageous terms, if the Loan Bill had not been opposed by the Tory party on the most foul misrepresentations. And whereas the explanation given by the Hon. Joseph Howe as to the nature and principles of the Award, is such as to convince us that it offers no effectual remedy for our grievances—that it will not enable us to become freeholders except on the most disadvantageous, if not the most ruinous terms—that it does not relieve the tenants from the payment of arrears to any considerable extent, because the landholders have used all their power and influence to secure the payment of such arrears, resorting to distraints, and other legal proceedings, since the time the Commissioners were appointed.

Resolved, therefore, that, in the opinion of this Meeting, the Representatives of the people should not give effect to the Award by any legislation, should the said Award be submitted to them.

JOHN M'DONALD, Chairman.

Moved by James McDonald, Esq., J. P., seconded by Francis McQuaid, Esq., J. P.:—

RESOLVED, That in view of the criminal delay of the Government in settling the Land Question, as they promised to do, and thereby meet the reasonable expectations of the people, they do not deserve, and, in the opinion of this meeting, do not enjoy the confidence of the inhabitants of this Island.

JOHN M'DONALD, *Chairman.*

Mr. Mark Webster was then called to the Chair, and a vote of thanks was given to the former Chairman for his attention to the business of the Meeting, and three hearty cheers having been given for the members for the District, the meeting separated.

MEETING AT ST. ANDREW'S.

ON the same evening, about 5 o'clock, another large meeting was held in front of the house of Mr. Patrick Griffin, St. Andrew's, also called by Mr. Coles.—Mr. Elisha Coffin, Jr., was appointed Chairman.—Messrs. Coles and Kelly addressed the meeting to nearly the same effect as they did at Monaghan Settlement. Mr. Whelan also spoke for a few minutes, and he was followed by the Hon. W. W. Lord, who entered at some length into an explanation of his views on the Award. He disapproved of that measure in all its details, but if it were brought before the Legislature, he believed it would be confirmed there, and he said the country should endeavour to make the best they could of it. He advised strenuous exertion and agitation on behalf of the Reform party, and said there was a great deal of work for that party to accomplish when they returned to power,—to pay off the enormous public debt that was accumulated within two or three years, and to improve and repair the public works, which had been allowed to go to decay; to lessen the enormous taxation; and to do many other things to encourage the industrial enterprise, and develope the resources of the Colony. Mr. Lord's speech was frequently cheered.

The Resolutions passed at the Monaghan Settlement Meeting having then been read—

It was moved by Benjamin Coffin, Esqr., J. P., seconded by Mr. P. Griffin—"That the foregoing Resolutions express the sentiments of this meeting, and that they be adopted."

This resolution was carried unanimously.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman was then moved by Mr. P. Griffin, and seconded by Mr. Charles Coffin.

We have no room for comments on the proceedings of those meetings. We can only say that the feeling manifested was characterized by strong opposition to the Government—the members of which and their supporters prudently declined to accept the invitation to be present,—and the cordial union exhibited by Protestants and Catholics in condemning the acts of the Government, show that the organs of the Administration have entirely failed in their efforts to create disaffection between those bodies.

THE DISTRESS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND.—The committee of the Ballinasloe relief fund have published an address to their subscribers,