object of his highest ambition—the slaughter of game and the tailoring of the army. We must add, however, that this report of the Emperor's intended abdication is not generally believed.

The venerable Greek Bishop of Munkacs, whose recent mysterious disappearance produced a profound sensation in the country, has returned to his diocesan city. Of course, he has been questioned with the greatest curiosity as to where he has been confined, and what was the reason assigned for his arrest; but on these points he does not vouchsafe any explanation. The fact is, probably, that the Austrian authorities who carried him off and cooped him up have positively prohibited him from speaking a word about the matter; and as he is a very old man, and in very delicate health, he is afraid to open his mouth, lest serious consequences should befall him. Strange as it may seem in English eyes it is no rare thing in Austria, and especially in Hungary, for the Government to whisk off people to fortresses, to keep them there for periods more or less long, and then to release them on condition of their not saying a word on the subject of their arrest or detention. But, though the poor Bishop is silent, people know well that he could have been arrested for no other reason than that he is a patriot, and sympathises with the national movement.

UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The annual message of President Buchanan was delivered to Congress on the 27th. Its great length precludes its publication in full in our columns, but the following synopsis presents its leading features in an intelligible manner:

THE VIRGINIA TRAGEDY.

The President, after expressing gratitude to the Almighty for blessings throughout the year, refers to the recent bloody occurence at Harper's Ferry. These events, bad and cruel in themselves, derived their chief importance from the apprehension that they are but symptoms of an incurable disease in the public mind which may break out in still more dangerous outrages, and terminate at last in open war by the North to abolish slavery. While he himself entertained no such apprehensions, they ought to afford a solemn warning to us all to be aware of the approach to danger. He says: Let me implore my countrymen North and South to cultivate their ancient feelings of mutual forbearance and good will towards each other, and strive to allay the demon spirit of sectional hatred and strife alive in the land.

This advice proceeds from the heart of an old public functionary, whose services commenced in the last generation, and the wise conservative statesman of that day; but he indulges in no gloomy forebodings. He thinks the affair of Harper's Ferry will be the means of allaying the existing excitement and preventing further outbreaks?

SLAVERY IN THE TERRITORIES.

He cordially congratulates Congress on the final settlement, by the Supreme Court, of the question of Slavery in the territories.

The right has been established of every man to take his property, of every kind, including slaves, into the territories, which belong equally to the whole Confederacy, and to have it protected there under the Federal Constitution.

Neither Congress, nor the Territorial Legislature, nor any human power has authority to annul or impair this vested right. Thus has the statutes of a territory during the intermediate period from its first settlement until it becomes a state been irrevocably fixed by the final decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

ADMISSION OF NEW STATES.

He then describes the mode of admission of a territory as a State into the Union. It may be admitted with or without slavery as their constitution may prescribe. This principle has been recognized, in some force, by the almost unanimous vote of both Houses of the last Congress.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

All lawful means at his command had been employed and will continue to be employed, against the slave trade. Our history proves that the fathers of the Republic, in advance of all other nations, condemned the slave trade.

THE CHINESE TREATY.

Ratifications of the Chinese treaty have been exchanged. Two supplemental conventions are, however, pending, relating to the rights of Americans in China and transit duties.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Our difficulty with Paraguay [illegible] satisfactorily adjusted. Our relations with France, Russia, and all the Continental Governments of Europe, Spain perhaps excepted, continue to be most friendly.

The President recommends that an appropriation be made to meet the demands of the Amistad claimants.

His opinions in favor of the acquisition of Cuba, by fair means, remains unchanged. Therefore, he again invites the serious attention of Congress to this important subject.

GREAT BRITAIN.

He had good reason to believe, until recently, that he would have been able to announce our difficulties with Great Britain as finally adjusted, in a manner honourable and satisfactory to both parties.

From causes, however, which Great Britain had not anticipated, she had not yet completed the treaty and arrangements with Honduras and Nicaragua, in pursuance of the understanding of the governments. It is, nevertheless, confidently expected that this will shortly be accomplished.

In relation to San Juan, he entertained no doubt of the validity of American title. He was happy to state that what was left to Gen. Scott's discretion could not have been placed in better hands.

He (Gen. Scott) has successfully accomplished his mission, and there was no longer any reason to apprehend the collision of the respective forces during the pendency of negotiations.

RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

The President gives the following outline of conduct of Mexico, for which he demands reparation:

There is scarcely any form of injury which has not been suffered by our citizens in Mexico during the last few years. We have been nominally at peace with that republic, but "so far as the interest of our commerce or our citizens who have visited the country as merchants, shipmasters, or in other capacities, are concerned, we might as well have been at war." Life has been insecure, property unprotected, and trade impossible at a risk of loss which prudent men cannot be expected to incur. Important contracts, involving large expenditures, have been set at defiance by the local governments.

Peaceful American residents, occupying their rightful possessions, have been suddenly expelled the country in defiance of treaties, and by the mere force of arbitrary power. Even the course of justice has not been safe from control, and a recent decree of Miramon permits the intervention of government in all suits where either party is a foreigner. Vessels of the United States have beed seized without law, and a consular officer who protested against such seizure has been fined and imprisoned for disrespect to the authorities. Military contributions have been levied in violation of every principle of right, and the American who resisted the lawless demand has had his property forcibly taken away, and has been himself banished. From a conflict of authority in different parts of the country, tariff dues which have been paid in one place have been exacted over again in another place. Large numbers of our citizens have been arrested and imprisoned without any form of examination or any opportunity for a hearing, and even when released, have only obtained their liberty after much suffering and injury, and without any hope of redress. The wholesale massacre of Crabbe and his associates without trial in Sonora, as well as the seizure and murder of four sick Americans, who had taken shelter in the house of an American, upon the soil of the United States, was communicated to Congress at its last session.

Murders of a still more atrocious character have been committed in the very heart of Mexico, under the authority of Miramon's government, during the present year. Some of these were only worthy of a barbarous age, and, impossible in a country which claims to be civilized. Of this description was the brutal massacre in April last, by order of General Marques, of three American physicians, who were seized in the hospital at Sicubaya, while attending upon the sick and dying of both parties, and without trial, as without crime, were hurried away to speedy execution.

Little less shocking was the recent fate of Ormond Chase, who was shot in Tepie on the 7th of August, by order of the same Mexican General, not only without trial, but without any conjecture by his friends of the cause of his arrest. He is represented as a young man of good character and intelligence, who had made numerous friends at Tepie by the courage and humanity which he had displayed on several trying occasions, and his death was as unexpected as it was shocking to the whole community. Other outrages might be enumerated, but these are sufficient to illustrate the wretched condition of the country, and the unprotected condition of the persons and property of our citizens in Mexico.

Mr. McLean, in August last, wrote:—"I hope the President will feel authorised to ask from Congress to enter Mexico, with [illegible] at the call of the Constitutional authorities, in [illegible] our citizens, and treaty rights. Unless [illegible] upon him, the evils must increase," etc. [illegible] been reluctantly led to the [illegible] announce this conclusion to [illegible] relates to the future, as [illegible]

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

THE QUIT RENT QUESTION.

SIR,—In offering the following remarks on the Quit Rent Question, I do not do so under the impression that the Hon. Col. Swabey has not fully refuted the statements put forward by the *Islander*, which tried to make it appear that the arrears of Quit Rent have been remitted to the proprietors by the Crown; on the contrary, I am persuaded these statements are fully rebutted, not only in Col. Swabey's reply, but also by the very Despatches which the editor of the *Islander* quotes to support his position. Further testimony can be brought forward to corroborate Col. Swabey's opinion, which no doubt he will submit, as he infers to do, in his place in the Legislature. In the meantime, I trust that the remarks I have to offer in reviewing this most important public question may be found interesting, and tend to enlighten the constituencies, by diffusing information on a subject that has heretofore been withheld from the people.

It is extraordinary to consider what pains have been taken to withhold truthful statements in relation to the position of the tenants of the Crown, who style themselves the proprietors of the Island. It is a question in which is involved one of the vital and leading principles of Christianity—the basework on which the structure of the constitution rests, and from which the laws of the land have been formed and supported; and it is the principle which we, Colonists, are proud to maintain, viz: "Thou shalt not trespass against thy neighbour." Here allow me to refer to the misrepresentations that have been so long and so industriously and successfully imposed on and believed in by the better classes of society in Charlottetown, and conveyed to every respectable emigrant visiting the Colony, through the political knavery of the proprietary representation.

That the Escheators were and are an illiterate, low and unprincipled set of demagogues, who, for the selfish purpose of installing themselves in power, were prepared to sacrifice every principle which regulates civilized society, and for this purpose had deceived the people to rely upon effecting measures in relation to the landed tenures, which they themselves had no faith in; whereas they never, as members of the Assembly, or as Escheators out of it, propounded any other opinion than that the proprietors had obtained a claim to the land on the stipulations set forward in their grants, or rather leases, *with any particular of which they have not complied*; and, in consequence thereof, as well as for their refractory behaviour on many occasions, these lands became forfeited to the rightful *proprietor*, viz: the Sovereign, and that, in order to test this *opinion*, it became necessary to establish a Court of Escheat in the Colony, so that the Crown Tenants might have the privilege of a fair trial in the constituted court of the realm, which it was and is the interest for the safety of the proprietors to use their influence to prevent. With this object in view, an unprincipled majority, on the frivolous excuse of attending a public meeting, imprisoned three of the leading members of the Escheat party in the Assembly, and poured out such torrents of personal abuse upon them, that it had the effect of weakening the sympathies of the people of Charlottetown towards the cause. But the country ought always to remember the consistency with which, in good as well as in evil report, they, the fathers of Escheat, worked to relieve them from the proprietary yoke. I ask that persecuting faction, who charged the Escheators with disloyalty, ignorance, roguery and corruption, if they can point out amongst the proprietary supporters a man possessing the literary attainments of a late member for Belfast, Doctor McAulay, or a political character to be compared in consistency to Cooper; or is there a man amongst them possessing the information, learning and integrity, as well as the respectability, of Alexander Rae; or have they a patriot bold to declare the truth equal to Le Lacheur? These are the men and their characters supported by Forbes, McIntosh, and others, who avowed themselves the leaders of Escheat in the first crusades; and although borne down by persecution and every species of odium—in some instances driven to poverty or emigration—still they never in any case recanted the opinions which they had promulgated, although tempted to do so by base bribes.

I allow that you have had characters professing high Christian virtues, but displaying all the arts of hypocrisy, hireling agents and others, styled gentlemen, who pretended to advocate the interests of the people, while artfully binding them in proprietary chains—with whom the Escheator could not compare in the slang ribaldry miserably imitated by a representative of the people in a debate on this momentous matter last winter. Nor are the pre[illegible] information, [illegible] the leaders [illegible] respectability, to [illegible] the Assembly, although [illegible] people have been weakened in their representation in that body by the over-reaching wiles of the Proprietary Agents in directing the late outburst of religious feeling against the Escheators, under the guise of their advocating interests detrimental to Protestantism; whereas the very contrary is the case, as almost all the Escheators have been distinguished for strong Protestant sentiments, (not sectarian) excepting Mr. Laird. Notwithstanding the efforts of the original proprietors a Court of Escheat was established in 1803 or 1804. Afterwards, under Governor Smith's administration, two Townships, the conditions of the grants of which were proven not to be complied with, were escheated to the Crown.

This instance is a precedent to follow, which the editor of the *Islander* cannot deny the propriety of; and he must also admit that the party whom he represents through the press, got up petitions against that Governor on false premises, and obtained the signatures of the people thereto for his removal, with the object of staying the operations of the Court, which petitions had the desired effect. But on Lieutenant Governor Smith's arrival in England, it was found, on investigation, that the accusations against him were not true, and that thus were fabricated in consequence of his determination to carry out the royal instructions in relation to the forfeiture of the grants to the tenants of the Crown. After his removal from the Island Governor Smith received from the Imperial Government, in consideration of his services having been faithfully performed, the honourable testimony of a pension for life, nearly equal to the salary he received when acting as Lieutenant Governor. But the trouble that he met with acted as a lesson to his successors, who generally chose the safer part, and protected the proprietary aggressions on the people. If otherwise, the representative of the Crown, in more instances than one, has found himself assailed with the same kind of abuse as that now hurled at Col. Swabey—the only kind of argument which the *Islander* is capable of using in defence of proprietary exaction. All parties agree that the landed tenures are in an unsafe condition, and that it ought to be the first duty of a Government to grapple with the difficulty that successive administrations succumbed under; nor is it any excuse for the present, or any other party in power, to screen themselves under the omissions of past administrations. If that kind of conduct were admitted, it would be a good excuse for leaving things as they are; neither would there have been any necessity under such a rule of defence for an agent in a high position under Government, to require the tenants of an estate to take out new leases, in order to correct the omissions of his predecessors.

It must be comprehensive to the simplest understanding that if the tenants of the Crown obtained their grants on the conditions of paying annually a stipulated sum—that without complying with this condition they are subject to the penalties of the grant or agreement, and it is vain, it is an insult to the sense of the country for the editor of the *Islander* or any other to impose the opinion he seeks to diffuse, viz:—"That the despatches referred to relieve the proprietors from the fulfilment of the Quit Rent condition," unless he can show that the conditions of commutation offered have been complied with; but he fails to prove that this offer has either been accepted or complied with; in doing so his defence falls like mist before the sunshine to the ground. But if that learned gentleman, who rests complaisantly in the manifold capacity of advocate of the Proprietors, the friend of the tenantry, and the first Officer of the Government, thinks his defence a strong one, I demand from him the light in which this matter was received by Her Majesty, when the arrears of Quit Rents and the right of forfeiture to the Crown of the lands held by the tenants of the Crown were ceded to the Legislature of this Island, in consideration of the Legislature taking upon itself the burthen of the Civil List as well as providing pensions for the retiring officers of the feudal Government. I wish him to consider that Despatch of the date 12th February, 1851, named "*bloody*" by the proprietary party, and explain what Her Majesty's Minister means when he directs the Lieutenant Governor's attention to this question by saying, "I am particularly anxious to direct your attention to a question which perhaps affect more than any other the political and social well-being of its community. It appeared to me of the highest importance that some satisfactory arrangement should now take place when the inhabitants of the Island are soon about to exercise a still larger control over its public affairs than they have hitherto enjoyed," and to bear in mind that the object of the Escheators is not to transgress upon the rights of property, *but to define such*. He may, at the same time, remember the opposition offered to the late Government in carrying out their view of this recommendation, by the party periodical over which he presides, and show, if he can, the applicability of the proposition for commuting the differences between the under tenants and the tenants of the Crown, that emanated for settling the Land Question from a member of the Government during the last session of the Assembly, is in any way calculated to reimburse the people of this Island, for the immense debt due the Colony from the proprietors, for which I contend that their lands are liable to forfeiture, and for which we have paid and are bound to pay a large consideration annually. I am, therefore, of opinion that the only way in which a satisfactory arrangement can be secured is by the decision of a constituted Court of the land. Earl Grey originated this idea when he states in the Despatch referred to the following words: "And while the [illegible] *at present*, it is your duty to enforce obedience [illegible] part of the quotation the public are in[illegible] *Islander*, given on frequent [illegible] be impressed upo[illegible]

the tenantry its bearing in the latter sense, by showing any resistance to the payment of rent would be forced at the point of the bayonet, he seemed to forge the *employes* of the land agents are tenants in arrears themelves, and that the *Rod* they severely used will be soundly applied on them. But that which I particularly wish to call his attention to is the former part of the sentence which probably escaped his notice. It governs the latter—it holds out the prospect, the advice, to amend or annul the law or such laws as may have an unjust bearing on society. With these preliminary remarks I close this letter, with the view of returning to the object at a convenient time.

Yours respectfully,

Ch Town, Jan. 2, 1860. PUBLICOLA.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

THE QUIT RENT QUESTION.

SIR,—Please to make room for a few words more about Lord Goderich's Despatch, although its contents are only proposals, which were never accepted or acted upon, yet the different construction or interpretations which have been given to it are wide apart, and leads to the belief that there is some concealment or mystery involved, which if found out and explained might throw some light on the proceedings to settle the Land Question.

Complaints for the non-performance of the conditions for settlement had been sent to the Colonial Office, and the Despatch from Lord Goderich, of the 27th January, 1833, was the answer. His proposals are his *conditions*, which he says *are established*, and the principal condition is his objection to an escheat for non-settlement according to the terms of grants; therefore he meant that there should be a release from the conditions for settlement before he could remit the arrears of Quit Rent, because he recommends that the arrears of Quit Rent should be recovered with rigour immediately after he had given his opinion that they should be remitted. This was, no doubt, what led the Lords of the Treasury into the opinion that the arrears of Quit Rent were remitted. They could not see why the Colonial Legislature should ask for a forfeiture for a breach of conditions of so little importance as *for the non-settlement of one person in proportion to every two hundred acres*. They did not know that Lord Goderich omitted the conditions which were of importance, and mentioned conditions which were of no importance; nor could they suppose, that under the guise of an objection to a forfeiture for a breach of such conditions he meant the Legislature to release the conditions for settlement, consequently the Lords of the Treasury could see no motive that Lord Goderich could have for his opinion at one time that the arrears of Quit Rent should be remitted, and the next moment recommend that the forfeiture for unredeemed Quit Rent should be rigorously enforced, all of which requires further explanation.

The conditions of the grants declare that unless they are settled with foreign Protestants within four years, the lands shall revert to the Crown; and as no such persons have been settled, the inhabitants who expected, and ought to have received, their lands from the Crown, have been swindled out of their birthright, and kept in the place of foreigners—enslaved as tenants to swindlers—and their labor and means employed to reclaim wild lands and improve estates for swindling land jobbers, who were allowed to possess themselves and hold over lands to which the titles were forfeited; and as this system of oppression was introduced by persons sent here from England with authority from the Colonial Minister, and maintained at an expense to Great Britain of £300,000 sterling; and although succeeding Colonial Ministers appear to be ashamed to mention it in their despatches, yet they cannot recommend a forfeiture for a breach of conditions, which their predecessors authorised, without allowing compensation to the landholders; and they cannot give them compensation without applying to Parliament for the money; and Parliament, before granting the money, might make such exposures as would bring the Colonial Office into disgrace. But even if this difficulty was yet over, another presents itself of still greater force. If the wrong doers, who have defrauded the inhabitants of, perhaps, half a million sterling, were to receive compensation, the parties who have been wronged have a far better right to have their money refunded.

But it was well for the inhabitants that the Legislature confirmed no false titles, and fortunate for the Colonial Office the Quit Rents were not paid or remitted. All proposals to reduce or remit Quit Rents were accompanied with conditions which were not complied with, and consequently they remain due; therefore to proceed to an escheat, for money due for arrears of Quit Rent, gives no room to ask for compensation.

This explanation will show the country farmers that Lord Goderich reserved the power in the hands of the Colonial Minister to proceed to an escheat for arrears of Quit Rent at any time thought proper; and it shows more forcibly how the [illegible] time they [illegible] editor of the *Islander* can accuse any one of falsifying despatches without any ground for his accusation, and he falsifies despatches himself to deceive the people, and make swindling plausible, that the Proprietary Government may continue to levy contributions for forfeited land without fear or interruption.

WM. COOPER.

Sailor's Hope, December 26, 1859.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—As the Small Pox is very prevalent in a neighbouring Colony, and may possibly reach this Island, may I beg the favour of an early insertion in your valuable columns of the accompanying extract on the subject of vaccination, which I have made from a recent London paper.

Yours, &c.,

A CONSTANT READER.

"Two medical men, Dr. Alfred Collinson and Mr. Samuel Norway, F. R. C. S., have called public attention to the increasing prevalence of Small Pox, which they attribute to the degeneration of the vaccine matter by passing through a long line of human bodies. The matter has never, it seems, been renewed direct from the cow since Jenner discovered the process. Steps should at once be taken, they suggest, to procure a fresh supply. In reply to this, the medical director of the Royal Jennerian and Vaccine Institution, Dr. Epps, writes, denying the statement that the vaccine matter now used is identical with that of Jenner's day, and further saying—

"The real inefficiency of vaccination is dependent on the ignorance of vaccination on the part of medical men. Medical men have often asked me to give them virus from children's arms, which virus has lost all power. Many medical men put many insertions of the vaccine into the arms of the child, under the idea that this will make the effect on the constitution more decided, (trusting the vulgar idea of quantity instead of the higher character of quality.) It is true more irritation is caused; but that very irritation appears to me to have the effect of preventing that amount of regular change in the constitution necessary to protect the individual from Small Pox. This inordinate irritation may, besides, generate a vaccine virus, the activity of which may be injuriously modified by this very irritation. Again, medical men, when short of vaccine virus, and in haste to use it, take virus from arms that have vesicles at the places vaccinated, but are not vaccine vesicles at all. *Indeed, this has been the case since vaccination has been authorised by Act of Parliament, and been made compulsory.* Medical men are paid so much a-head, and all the parish unions paid for vaccination. The number vaccinated constituted the revenue. Multitudes were said to be vaccinated, but they were not protected, and these will be those who will suffer when Small Pox becomes epidemic; these thinking they are safe when they are not. But the present vaccination Act *cannot, if carried, insure perfect vaccination*, for it provides that the certificate of protection from Small Pox shall be given to the child on the *eighth* day after vaccination; whereas, any one acquainted with vaccination knows that the safety of the vaccination cannot be declared till the *fourteenth* day of vaccination."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I cordially concur in the meed of praise which the *Islander* most justly pays to the gentlemen at present engaged in the Admiralty Survey of these coasts; but still, I cannot help thinking that the editor has, in a great measure, spoiled his panegyric by his indulgence in political and religious animosity. We honour the philanthropy of these gentlemen, not because they are "Protestants," but because they are exemplary Christians; for surely we can conceive of others not Protestants, who yet profess, and evidence too, that they also are "followers of Him who went about doing good." "Beshrew the sombre pen" of bigotry, say I, not vauntingly. And yet, Sir, I cannot set down the editor of the *Islander* a bigot, neither do I take him to be a clairvoyant, which the writer of the article under the head of "the Surveying Vessels" must be, when he undertakes to strike a balance between the respective amounts expended in God-like charity by the Gulnare Officers on the one part, and "the editor of the *Examiner*, and the entire party to which he belongs," on the other. By the way, the phrase "entire party" appears to me to smack far more of the "sod" than of the good old county of Devon. May it not be that the learned editor, of late hard pushed by his gallant assailant, has been compelled to depute his plume of office to one less wise and cautious than himself.

A PROTESTANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—It appears to have escaped the observation of the friends of the tenantry in this Island, that the present disinclination to pay up arrears of rent has been much encouraged by the successful persistence of the proprietors themselves in evading the payment of their own arrears of quit rent. If it be true, which I much question, that these arrears have been remitted, why should not the tenants in like manner strive to shuffle off and evade their debts in expectance of a similar result? Surely they [illegible] honest in so doing as the lordly grantees, and their [illegible] who have the impertinence to twi[illegible] honesty.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., January 17, 1860.

A WORD FOR OURSELVES.

HAVING stated, in our issue of the 26th December, the principles we shall endeavour to pursue in the management of this journal, we deem it unnecessary to trouble our readers with any further references to our own views and opinions. All we need say is, that THE EXAMINER will continue to be the exponent of liberal principles—that we purpose to make our columns the outlet to popular feeling and sentiment on public affairs—that it shall not meddle in any sectarian disputes or differences, no matter what the provocation may be; that our enlarged space will enable us to give more Foreign and Colonial news than could be inserted in any of our previous numbers; and that we shall continue to embellish our columns with the choicest selections in Literature which the most popular periodicals of the day can afford.

To our old and faithful subscribers, whose patronage has cheered us in our labours for so many years, we cordially present all the compliments of this happy season—we trust our intercourse will still be of long duration, and be mutually profitable and agreeable.

We regret the delay which has occurred in the issue of the present No. It was, however, unavoidable. Our Printing Press, Type and Paper having been landed at Murray Harbour, to which place the vessel that carried them belongs—we were obliged to wait for good sleighing before they could be brought to Charlottetown; and more than a fortnight was lost to us on this account. We shall endeavour to atone for the delay by diligence and regularity for the future; and by giving more than our usual time and attention to the editorial department, we hope to make our paper so acceptable to the great body of our patrons as to induce them to forgive and forget the short intermission that has occurred.

One word more. Liberals throughout the Island should remember that the successful advocacy of their principles depends, in a great measure, on having a press to make them known, and to defend them against attack. Such a press they have, and need we say that it depends upon them for support? Every intelligent man, whose principles accord with our own, has some influence over the minds of his neighbours and acquaintance; by exercising this influence to extend the circulation of THE EXAMINER amongst persons who are able and willing to pay the small amount of subscription, he is not only propagating his opinions in the most effectual manner, but he helps to smoothen the rugged paths over which the editor plods to the same haven with himself, and so oils that lever which scatters the thoughts of both on every side as to lighten the labour with which it gives them utterance. We believe our paper has many such friends throughout the country, and we hope it is not necessary to stimulate their zeal on our behalf by any lengthened observations in our own favour. We trust they will take the hint in the spirit in which it is given, and that it will not be without the best results.

THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE *Gazette* of Tuesday last published the usual proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, on the 16th February next. Some time ago the *Islander* warned us that this interesting event was approaching, and recommended the several constituencies throughout the Island to assemble and deliberate upon such measures as might or should engage the attention of their representatives in Session. One would suppose that the organ of the Government, under the direct control of the Colonial Secretary, whose advice and opinion on public affairs the whole Executive Council are bound to follow [illegible] opinion as to point [illegible] —would so far help and stimulate public [illegible] out those particular measures which should command the attention of the Legislature. But in place of that we were favoured with a few vague generalities about our roads and bridges—showing what grand economists our present rulers are, because they did not spend more than half the amount devoted by their predecessors to the same service, Providence kindly leaving our roads and bridges in tolerably passable condition. Following the proverbial injunction to praise the bridge which carries us safe over, the *Islander* seems to consider its duty to praise the Government for having carried the coach of state over all the ruts and dilapidated bridges, without dislocating the necks or breaking the limbs of any of its passengers. And thinking that we all ought to be brimfull of gratitude for the blessings which such a paternal Government secures, and that we do not contribute, as we ought, in the shape of taxation to the public revenue—the Colonial Secretary recommends that the members of Parliament and their constituents should take into consideration this momentous question—What? Guess what? Why, that farmers should be taxed, in addition to their present rates, to pay for the repairs to our bridges and wharfs, by paying a small sum on all the produce shipped by them in the Spring and Fall. And this is the *great question*—the only one—which the Government, through their Colonial Secretary, propose to the people for their deliberation previous to the meeting of the Legislature! We did think there were other questions, of far greater importance, which the Government organ would have proposed for discussion; and that which stands in the first rank is the Land Question. The Lieut Governor and Col. Gray, one of his advisers, expressed their surprise several months ago, at the seeming difficulties which beset the adjustment of this question, and stated their belief that a few months or weeks would suffice to set it at rest. Professing to be deeply interested in the welfare of the tenantry, whose minds were agitated on this subject—Col. Gray introduced to the notice of the House, last session, a series of resolutions, one of which proposed the appointment of Commissioners, whose duty it would be to settle all disputes between proprietors and tenants—to induce the former to sell to the latter their occupations at moderate prices, and to remit old arrears of rent. This was the only Government measure brought forward by the party now in power—all the supporters of the Government in the House, and out of it, praised it as the acme of statesmanship and patriotism; and the tenantry, particularly those about Belfast, who had good reason to be interested in the promised remission of arrears of rent, were in ecstacies regarding the benevolent intentions of their representative. But the best part of a year has passed away, and no action has been taken on the resolutions—no Commissioners have been appointed—the Land Question is still the bone of contention between the proprietors and their tenantry, and not only is there no remission of the arrears of rent, but their payment is enforced by all the power which the law can bring to bear for the purpose by some of the very individuals who declared by their votes in the Assembly that it was unjust to exact them. Can it be matter of surprise, then, that the tenantry are disgusted and indignant at the false promises of our rulers? Can we wonder at the sullen determination, which prevails in many parts of the Island, not to pay those arrears, until all legal means have been exhausted; and can we censure the people for coming to such a determination? No, the Government promised, of their own accord, to perform an act of justice,—they have broken their promise, and the country should express its indignation at this shameful exhibition of bad faith. We may be told that despatches on this subject, between the local authorities and the Colonial Office, will be submitted to the Legislature in due season. But, knowing the desire of the present Government to court popular favour, we are confident that if they had any despatches favourable to the views and interests of the tenantry, they would have been published as soon as received. We, therefore, cheerfully endorse the recommendation of the *Islander*, that public meetings should be called—not to encourage the imposition of a new tax on agricultural produce, as the farmers have taxes enough to bear already—but to enable every constituent to ask each other what the Government of this Island have done, since they went into office, to improve the condition of the country—to consider whether they have corrected the errors and omissions of their predecessors, and what claim they have now to public confidence. Governments, like individuals, must be judged by their works, not by their professions. We have had abundance of the latter from our present rulers. We are utterly ignorant of the former; but let them be brought to the bar of public opinion, and see what relation promise bears to performance.

EUROPE AND AMERICA.

WHEN we commenced making arrangements for the issue of the present No., we fully expected that its first appearance would be characterised, to a considerable extent, by details of "moving accidents by flood and field," in various parts of Europe. Looking at the vast preparations, offensive and defensive, being made by France and England, and the uneasy tone of the press of both countries—the unsettled state of Central and Southern Europe, consequent upon the sudden cessation of the war between France and Sardinia, on one side, and the Austrian Empire on the other—considering the impulse which the inception and progress of that war had given to the hot spirits, restless and chafing from whatever causes—we were among those who believed that a general European melee was about to take place. Although, for the present,

"Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front,"

we cannot divest our mind of the impression that very little cordiality of feeling subsists between some of the principal powers. The vast preparations made by France, at a cost which must have entailed a very heavy strain upon her not over elastic resources—the acknowledged ability and unscrupulous character of her ruler—the tone of her press, which is only permitted to give utterance to opinions favorable to the policy of the Emperor—the national *furore* for military fame, which revives

"The stirring memory of a thousand years,"

from Cressy and Agincourt to Waterloo and Trafalgar—all indicated the probability that ere long the flags which had been given to the breeze on many a well stricken field would soon, once again, flaunt their well blazoned folds in renewed hostility. The people of Britain were thoroughly aroused to a sense of the danger which menaced their shores, and as England, since the time of the Conquest, had not known the tread of the invader, it was but natural that the occasion should call forth such manifestations of opinion, as, while they expressed and stimulated the patriotic feeling of the people, could not but have the effect of wounding the jealous susceptibilities of our allies, and, thus, of adding fuel to the flame already burning with sufficient strength, without additional material to feed it.

Such a state of affairs was the inevitable consequence of the attitudes respectively assumed towards each other by the two powers; and we have no more faith in the reality of the professions or of a desire to cultivate peaceful relations put forth by France, than we would place in the assurance of a similar disposition, which might be made by a notoriously quarrelsome bully to his neighbour after they had been, in the language of the Ring, "squaring off" at each other on opposite sides of a gutter.

It is reported of Sheridan, that, on the occasion of his giving a *spread* to some friends, a bungling servant, carrying a tray of dishes, slipped and fell with his burden from the top to the bottom of the stairs. His master and the guests, startled by the noise, hastened to the spot where the unfortunate was sprawling amid any amount of crockery. To his master's angry reproaches for his stupidity and carelessness, he could but [illegible] "nothing had been broken." Sheridan [illegible] the apology that [illegible] the satisfaction of his momentary annoyance, gave the fellow a hearty kick, accompanied by the not inappropriate question: "What the devil do you mean then, you rascal, by making such a noise for nothing?" Now, we opine that John Bull feels, and will continue to feel, that all this noise on the part of France has not been made for nothing.

We firmly believe that, personally, the Emperor of the French deprecates a rupture with his national and ancestral foe, but "needs must when the devil drives;" and as his elevation to the Imperial purple was due to fraud and violence, he will ultimately be compelled to move in the direction pointed out by his six hundred thousand bayonets, or they will be turned against himself. Conscious, from the lessons of history, of the fate which would await him in a struggle with Britain, he would fain postpone it as long as possible; but the necessities of his own position will eventually compel him to "cry havoc and let loose the dogs of war," and thus "either way he's sped."

The point to which he, the prestige of whose name placed him where he is, looked as the culminating glory which would establish his dynasty permanently on the throne and in the hearts of *La Belle France*, was the successful invasion of England, and his nephew and successor knows right well that an attempt in that direction would be the most grateful tribute he could offer to the martial spirit of the most warlike people in the world, and that in default of any new Crimean or Italian outlets for the expenditure of the "villainous saltpetre" with which the arsenals of the empire are charged to repletion, Cherbourg will have to fulfil its mission.

Impassive as marble, secret as the grave, the man who, through vicissitudes of fortune such as nothing but a firm belief in his destiny could have enabled him to bear, has attained the high object to which his thoughts were solely directed, must, if he would hold it, comply with the conditions which such a position so acquired naturally and inevitably imposes.

As to the peace of Europe being satisfactorily established by any diplomatic arrangements on bases not in accordance with the feelings of the peoples to be affected by them, we think that the spirit of the age, and the intelligence of the nations, are sufficient to show Sovereigns that the pen and ink remodellings and partitions, *a la* Treaty of Vienna, of territories, regardless of the historical and national sympathies and associations of the governed, and made only to suit the convenience and augment the dominions of the governing powers, according to geographical peculiarities, are not exactly the fittest means of allaying the irritation and impatience which the obsolete "right divine of kings to govern wrong" has occasioned, and which, if not seasonably conceded to, must soon break down the barriers by which the popular feeling has been so long restrained.

While such is, in our opinion, a truthful exposition of the state of matters in Europe, we are happy to give our readers the assurance of our belief that the difficulties which complicated the political relations between our mother country and the United States, have been, by the wisdom of the supreme authorities of both countries, placed in a fair way of amicable adjustment. This result has been obtained by the wisdom and true patriotism of the present American Executive, whose proceedings in the matter have been characterised by a dignity worthy of a great nation, and a total absence of that deference to the vulgar howl of an anti-British democracy, which has so often and so disreputably elicited and distinguished grounds of quarrel between the two Powers.

This satisfactory management of the cause of difference may, to a certain extent, be attributed to the fact that the President of the giant Republic does not intend to present himself as a candidate for the renewal of the suffrages of the millions of the free and independent who have conferred upon him the gift of the highest office in their power; and Mr Buchanan is entitled to the credit of having administered his Government without the factitious aid of a popul[illegible] and obtained by pandering to the bad passio[illegible] bers of the people—who, in the times of [illegible]