

CORRESPONDENCE.

TENANT MEETING AT DONAGH, LOTT 35.

In accordance with public notice, a general meeting of the tenants of the Donagh Schoolhouse, on Saturday the 22nd instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the agitation and long-continued Land Question, as well as the disaffected and much oppressed state of the tenantry of said Township...

Moved by Mr. Strang Hart, seconded by Mr. Matthew Howard: That seeing that the Royal Commission for the settlement of the Land Question has proved fruitless, and the action taken by the present Government on the recent Delegation is more than useless, inasmuch as it has obtained their consent to 16 years purchase, it would altogether have met with the disapprobation of the tenantry of this Island, and instead of being considered a boon conferred upon them, must have been considered a cunningly devised scheme to betray the tenantry and bind them more firmly under the grasp of Landlordism...

Moved by Mr. Eugene McArthur, seconded by Mr. Eugene McArthur: That this meeting do urge upon the Legislators the necessity of relaxing the law giving the sanction to any Bill of 15 or 16 years purchase, as we believe that such a course could not satisfy the tenants of this Island, but would be only calculated to render their condition worse than at present.

Moved by Mr. Peter McDougall, seconded by Mr. Daniel Sullivan: That we sympathize with the tenantry of other Lots who share the one common affliction, and shall be ready at our post to aid in carrying out any measure that may have for its object the melioration of the condition of the tenantry.

Moved by Mr. Eugene McArthur, seconded by Mr. Andrew Bell: That we feeling it a very great grievance to remain under the rental system, do propose to purchase the fee simple of our farms at the rate at which the Siskirk and Worrell Estates were sold—annual arrears of rent up to 1864 to be relinquished.

Moved by Mr. James Egan, seconded by Mr. John McArthur: That the tenantry residing in this locality are willing to pay for the freehold of their farms the same price as were charged to the tenants on the estates here mentioned.

Moved by Mr. Leonard Woods, seconded by Mr. Thomas McManus: Resolved, That the tenantry throughout the County should repudiate, in the plainest manner, the proposals submitted by Messrs. Palmer and Pope, the Delegates from this Island, in their correspondence with the Colonial Office, as a means of settling the Land Question, as well as the very extraordinary Bill submitted by Sir Samuel Cunard, on behalf of himself and other Proprietors, for the consideration of the Government of this Island.

Moved by Mr. John Trainor, seconded by Mr. Michael Hanrahan: Resolved, That the tenantry throughout the County until the principles of the Land Purchase Bill are more widely extended, so as to effect the object contemplated in the foregoing resolutions.

Moved by Samuel Lane, Esquire, Mount Melick, seconded by acclamation: Resolved, That all journals in the Island be and are hereby requested to publish the foregoing resolutions in their columns.

After a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairmen for their truly able and impartial conduct in the chair, the meeting gave three cheers for our beloved Sovereign the Queen, and then dispersed in the most orderly manner and unanimity of sentiment. It is to be hoped that prejudice, ere long, will be numbered among the things unknown, and buried in oblivion.

Donagh, 25th April 1864.

Tenant Meeting at Monaghan Road, Lot 36.

A public meeting of the Tenantry on Lot 36, and adjacent Townships, was held at the Schoolhouse, on Monaghan Road, on Thursday April 14th, for the purpose of taking into consideration the agitation and long-continued Land Question, as well as to join and cooperate with the Tenantry throughout the Island generally in abolishing the present tyrannical and slavish Leasehold system.

Several speakers expressed their views upon the subject, and explained the nature of the grievances which they were suffering, and would continue to endure if the people did not interpose for their rights, and withhold the payment of rent and arrears of rent until some satisfactory settlement should be effected between Landlord and Tenant, which would enable the people to purchase the freehold of their farms upon just terms.

The meeting was largely attended by both Tenant and Freeholder, and all were unanimous in the opinion that nothing less than a right of purchase, similar to that granted to the Tenants on Township lands purchased by the Government, will satisfy the demands of the Tenantry. The following Resolutions were submitted and unanimously agreed to:

Moved by Mr. Wm. Lugs, and seconded by Mr. Patrick Mooney: Resolved, That the Tenantry generally throughout the Island should be placed on an equal footing with the occupiers of Townships, and be greatly dissatisfied with the extravagant proposals made by the Delegates and Sir Samuel Cunard—proposals which if adopted would prove ruinous to the welfare of the Colony.

The meeting having been duly organized by the appointment of Francis Lane, Esq., as chairman, and Mr. James Trainor, as acting secretary, the following Resolutions were submitted and unanimously agreed to:

Moved by Mr. John McArthur, seconded by Mr. John Kelly: Resolved, That as the opinion of this meeting, never will be contentment in the Colony until the principles of the Land Purchase Bill are more widely extended, so as to effect the object contemplated in the foregoing Resolutions.

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The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 2, 1864. PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE. The Legislative Session for 1864 was prorogued this day at 5 o'clock. The usual formalities were observed on the occasion, but in the Council Chamber there was only a small attendance of ladies and gentlemen to do honor to the occasion. We give below, without being prepared to make any comments upon it, the Speech with which His Excellency closed the Session. It has the small merit of being short, and the demerit of being without any point of interest whatever.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: I thank you for the attention which you have given to the various subjects which, at the opening of this Session, I recommended to your consideration, and also for the labour which you have bestowed on the general business of the Province.

I have forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies your congratulatory Address to Her Majesty the Queen and to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the occasion of the birth of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales. It affords me great satisfaction to transmit to the Secretary of State for the Colonies your Address to Her Majesty the Queen and to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the occasion of the birth of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales.

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The Delegates whom, in conformity with your Resolution, I shall proceed to appoint, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of an union of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, will, I am confident, enter upon the duties committed to them with a full sense of the importance of their office.

In Her Majesty's name, I thank you for the Supplies which you have granted for the public service.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The deep interest which His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has taken in this Colony, will cause you to bear with regret that His Grace has retired from the Colonial Department of Her Majesty's Government.

I rejoice that I am now able to release you from further attendance here, by proroguing this General Assembly.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

We publish in other columns a somewhat lengthy statement regarding the misunderstanding which occurred in the House of Assembly last week, and which led to the resignation of the Chair by Mr. Speaker Haviland. This statement was prepared by our Special Reporter, and we desire our readers to understand that the principal Editor is not responsible for the comments which it contains. The facts are, in the main, clearly and correctly set forth; but the principal Editor does not believe that the Hon. and learned ex-Speaker was widely free from blame in the matter.

He thinks the Hon. ex-Speaker erred in judgment, and in temper, while the majority are censurable in a higher degree for want of judgment, want of temper, and want of proper, courteous and delicate feeling towards a gentleman who had served his party faithfully and ably for a great many years. In short, it was a family quarrel, in which, like most family quarrels, there were faults on both sides; and the less that outsiders say about such quarrels the better it will be for the outsiders.

We are not of those who think it wise to sing praises in the ear of the ex-Speaker, at the stand he has taken against his party, or to run frantically to place a crown of laurels on his brow, before our own judgment has cooled sufficiently to examine very closely his claims to those honours. That Mr. Haviland has been an excellent Speaker, and an ornament to the Conservative party, are expressions that have very generally fallen from the lips of all who know him; and the principal Editor of this Journal is not so ignorant of his praise as to dissent from this compliment.

But as the whole affair was merely a personal misunderstanding—as no public interests are much affected by it—as the relative position of parties is not materially changed—we think it scarcely necessary to attempt to magnify the circumstance of the late Speaker's resignation into great proportions, or say much about it—at least until we see whether it may lead to any new, and at present unexpected, political complications.

The *Islander* of the 15th ultimo contained an article on the "Public Meetings on the subject of the Land Question." These meetings give a good deal of annoyance to the editor of the *Islander* and to the proprietors whose sermons he is. Anything like freedom of enquiry and independence of spirit among the tenantry is peculiarly distasteful to the present government. An obedient, uninquiring people—a people who do what they are told and ask no questions, and make no remarks, are they over whom Tory rulers delight to hear away.

Whenever men begin to ask questions—whenever they want to know the reason why and where the money goes, they are no longer fit subjects for Tory rule. This independent, presumptuous, meddling spirit is one which is peculiarly hateful to all Toryes. They believe in a division of labour. Their business is to rule; the people's business is to be ruled.

The idea that the people should have anything to say in what is their peculiar concern, is not to be a moment entertained. This is rank Radicalism, Liberalism, or Socialism, according to the particular period in which such a spirit manifests itself among the unwashed multitude. It is a demon that must be exorcised after the most approved fashion and with the least delay. "Things are coming a pretty pass, say they, when every Tom, Dick and Harry may presume to dictate to their heaven-born rulers and hereditary superiors what they shall or shall not do." Such fellows must be put down at any cost. We will teach them to know their places.

Such is the language of Tories at all times and in all places; nor is that of the Tory editor of the *Islander* an exception. Endeavouring to account for the origin of the numerous tenant-meetings that have been held in different parts of the country, he says: "A little enquiry into the circumstances under which these meetings were got up will disclose that the instigators of them were Liberals." Of course they must have been Liberals—good Tories would have been content to let their betters think and act for them—and would have accepted, with becoming thankfulness, what they in their goodness would condescend to bestow. A model Tory constituency would not dare to call in question the wisdom, much less the honesty of those set over them in high places. The "instigators" of such proceedings must have been dreadfully smitten with that most horrible of all moral or political diseases, Liberalism. The learned editor, no doubt, used the term "instigators" advisedly. Such an erudite gentleman as he knows the true value of words too well to use them without due care.

He ever so wisely and eloquently. But when zealous Conservatives and ardent Orangemen publicly express opinions diametrically opposed to those of the Government, then affairs begin to assume quite another aspect. The task that appeared easy while the people were supine, became exceedingly difficult when they are wide awake and alive to their own interests. The country members, usually so docile, begin to feel that they don't want to face outraged and decided constituencies, they must act with prudence and independence. The blunders of the high independence lose much of their effect when visions of stern and indignant supporters, demanding an account of their doings, rise before them.

Many imagine that the application of some spur was necessary to urge on some of our members in the path of duty, and that others needed to be properly reminded that there were other powers in the country than that whose seat is in the Province Building in Charlottetown. To both classes the application of the screw—public opinion—can do no possible harm.

The *Islander* says "that the cry now is, that the Government desire to confirm the titles of the proprietors and to give them sixteen years' purchase for their lands—that they intend to pass through the Legislature the Proprietors' Bill," and then goes on to show that the "cry" is as near the truth as it can well be. Indeed, we are strongly of opinion that were it not for those same tenant meetings, this rumour would have been an accomplished fact. He argues that a public declaration by statute that the hands of the proprietors were not liable to escheat would not strengthen their titles—that these titles have been indirectly admitted to be valid, and so forth. If this declaration is of no use to the proprietors, why do they require it? That the proprietors set value upon such a declaration, should make the people most chary of making it.

It would seem that the proprietors, through their agents, the Government, are bound to drive as hard a bargain with the tenantry as they can. The people may depend upon it, if they will not look after their own interests, the Government will not do it for them. We infer from the tone of the *Islander* that the measure which the Government is hatching will, after the period of probation shall have expired, and it breaks the shell of mystery and secrecy that encloses it, prove so like the Proprietors' Bill, that it will require considerable powers of discrimination to distinguish them apart. It is to contain all the objectionable features of that famous production of proprietary moderation and liberality. We know pretty well now, thank the public meetings, what the tenantry, Liberal and Conservative, think of that measure, nor is it at all likely that their estimate of it will be changed by the special pleading of the editor of the *Islander*. It will require greater powers of persuasion than he possesses to convince them that it is calculated, in the slightest degree, to ameliorate their condition, should it become the law of the land.

Though we have taken no part, either directly or indirectly, in getting up the public meetings that have given such offence to the editor of the *Islander* and his colleagues in the Government, yet we will say that those who do convene them, and those who take a part in them, are doing what they have a perfect right to do; and more—they are doing what the intelligent citizens of a free country do, if they have any regard for their own interests, often do, or should to the rule of tyrannical, dishonest or incapable men. We have always thought that the people of this country were too apathetic; they have allowed their interests to be sacrificed and their rights to be trampled on, without publicly evincing the slightest sign of disapproval. Proceedings that would have raised a storm of agitation in other countries, have in this been submitted to without a murmur. We have had hitherto no such thing as public opinion. If the people took a greater interest in public affairs, and if they gave public expression to their opinions, they would be more zealously and honestly served by their representatives in Parliament and other public functionaries.

We would not then see men returned to successive Houses of Assembly who are neither by nature nor education fitted to perform the duties devolving upon them as legislators and conservators of the public rights—men who become the mere creatures of their more sagacious and better educated men of their party. The whole legislative career of such men is a game of "follow my leader." They, through sheer helplessness and inability to act independently, cling to the skirts of the leaders of their party, and vote with them through thick and thin—for good measures and for bad. A vigilant and intelligent constituency might, perhaps, once send one of those men to the Legislature, but he might rest assured that after four years' trial he would be allowed to direct his attention to some employment more suited to his capacity, and more congenial to his taste than that of transacting the public business of the Colony. Had the people shown more spirit and greater unanimity in times past, proprietors would not have obtained the power that they now wield. They would not have had it in their power to fill the House of Assembly with their advocates, or to defeat every measure calculated to benefit the tenantry as soon as it reaches the Colonial Office in Downing Street.

In conclusion, we say that whatever the people may gain by active agitation and a forcible expression of their opinions on the Land Question, they will gain nothing whatever by a stupid acquiescence in whatever the Proprietors may choose to propose and the Government to accept. They should remember that more hopeless cases than theirs have been brought to a successful issue by means of long-continued and for many years apparently fruitless agitation.

NOTES OF THE SESSION. No. 7. RESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKERSHIP BY THE HON. T. H. HAVILAND, AND THE ELECTION THEREOF BY THE HON. R. K. MCALAY. Thursday, 28th April, 1864. Nearly every writer, or historian, we believe, who has traced the extraordinary career of Napoleon Bonaparte, or traced the leading events of his life, has remarked that his descent from the pinnacle of power, to which he had almost miraculously attained, commenced with his victory of his lovely, amiable and affectionate Josephine, and faithful and devoted mistress, Josephine, was forced from his side, his good genius, it is generally admitted, forsook him; and the commencement of his fall and the decline of his power had been dated from the hour in which he had recourse to that ungenerous and ungrateful policy. Between the momentous career of Napoleon the Great, and that of our existing Government—which may well be called "the Little"—there is not, perhaps, strikingly speaking, any closer parallel than could be drawn between the courses of some blazing and horrent star, sweeping across the heavens, "with fire of a farthing diplexing monarchs," and that of a farthing diplexing monarch, borne along a dark road, by some humble pedestrian, on a dimly lighted night. Yet we cannot help instituting a comparison between the infatuation of the Great Napoleon, on the occasion of his divorcing his wife, Josephine, and that of our usually fatuous Government, in having driven from the Speakership, and divorced from their party, a gentleman who, however bitingly and harshly he may have been treated, was chosen the Speaker of the House, and in that position, as one of their party, reflected more honour upon them, by the able, dignified, urbane

and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of the high and honorable office of the Speakership, than all their critics and all the legislative measures they have devised have entitled them to, in the estimation of sensible and impartial men, and to use, with a slight variation, a saying of the Great Napoleon himself—we would say that the forcible ejection of the Hon. T. H. Haviland, by the Government, from the Speakership, is a measure which will be regretted by all who are not of the Government, just as Napoleon's divorce of Josephine proved the commencement of his own downfall. And "so mote it be," we say.

To institute a comparison between the character and qualifications of the new Speaker, the Hon. Roderick McAlay, and his predecessor, the Hon. T. H. Haviland, is not now our purpose. Indeed, we think it would be absurd to do so; but this we will say—that the House will soon find, if they have not already found, how unwisely they have cast off "the old love" for "the new." To the House, the change cannot, upon the best of terms, be made more than a mortifying and embarrassing in a very high degree; and the loss which the Government have thereby sustained may yet ultimately be the immediate cause of their overthrow.

The Hon. ex-Speaker appears to be very sensible—acutely so, we think, and we do not wonder at it—of the very unfair, ungenerous, and ungrateful conduct of his late colleagues, and of the manner in which he resigned the Speakership; and we sincerely sympathize with him in what we can well understand to be his feelings. Our sympathy on the present occasion, is not, however, that kind of sympathy which may be felt to be humiliating to the party for whom it is proffered; for, while we sympathize with the Hon. ex-Speaker, we do not sympathize with the arbitrary treatment which he has experienced at the hands of his late political friends, and we see in him a high-minded, honorable, and independent man, whose fall—if fall it can truly be called—from a high estate, has only been the means of conferring upon him his new honor and dignity; and it may be truly said of him, as of the late Speaker, that he is a man who is not to be trifled with.

Whist he occupied the Chair, he, on all occasions proved himself to be fully entitled to the respect and honor of the House, as their Speaker; but, in leaving it, he did more, he showed himself to be fully entitled to respect and honor, as a man, and as a member of the House. His resignation of the Speakership, we think, is as follows: "Wednesday, 27th April, 1864. On motion of the Hon. J. C. Pope: Resolved, That the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider the propriety of the Hon. T. H. Haviland's resignation of the Speakership, and to report thereon to the House on Thursday next." "The Hon. J. C. Pope moved that the Supplementary Estimate laid on the table of the House yesterday, viz: 'Pew in St. James's Church, for the use of the Hon. T. H. Haviland, Governor, &c.' be referred to the said Committee."

"Mr. Speaker declined receiving the motion, stating, as his reason, that the said Estimate is inconsistent with the Resolution of the House, of the 15th day of April, 1864, which Resolution is in these terms: 'Whereas it is deemed inexpedient further to continue the grant of Twenty-two pounds, per annum, to defray the expenses of the Hon. T. H. Haviland, the member of the Legislature—Resolved, that the Clerk of the House do notify the Ministers or Trustees of the various Churches in receipt of annual grants from the Hon. T. H. Haviland, that the said Resolution is in these terms: 'Whereas it is deemed inexpedient further to continue the grant of Twenty-two pounds, per annum, to defray the expenses of the Hon. T. H. Haviland, the member of the Legislature—Resolved, that the Clerk of the House do notify the Ministers or Trustees of the various Churches in receipt of annual grants from the Hon. T. H. 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