

with so much cloth or leather, as the case may be, and are required to return a certain number of articles ready for use; but the materials have already passed through the hands of the officials, who make their profit out of the affair by keeping back for their own use a good percentage of the materials, exacting at the same time the required number of articles. The poor tradesman has to make good the defalcations of this grasping rapacity out of his own pocket, besides the loss of the labour he is compelled to perform. Before I left the town where I was last May, I could not get a pair of boots made, as all the bootmakers were working upon this government work, to the detriment of their own interests and that of their customers. For this work they get a mere nominal price, the greater part of which goes into the pockets of the same men who robbed them of their cloth; but they can obtain no redress for this, and look upon it as a necessary evil.

The merchants are not subjected to such heavy losses as might be supposed, considering the perfect annihilation of all external commerce. It is true they are obliged to subscribe largely to the voluntary contributions for the expenses of the war; but as nearly all business is carried on with ready money, they merely withdraw their capital, and wait patiently the course of events. It is among this class that the greatest number of patriots is to be found; for, as they understand no other language but their own, and are strongly attached to their country, not knowing any other, they get all their information of what passes from the highly-coloured misrepresentations that are published for them by the Russian government. They were disgusted with the patriotic verses, that were to be found in all the Russian papers, describing the progress and victories (future?) of the holy Muscovite armies. Lord Palmerston is represented to them as a monster, and the author of the war. In one of these poetical effusions his lordship is caricatured as a great warrior, who fights his battles on a map with his forefinger. Since the battles of Alina and Inkermann, these productions have become less frequent. There is one that appeared in the spring of 1854, that I must mention. It is an allegory, composed by an actor, I believe; and relates that a Russian *molodetz* (young man) was going quietly on his way, when he found his passage stopped by three men—a turbaned Turk, a bearded Frenchman, and a red-headed English merchant. With a few swings of his powerful arm he made the Turk and Frenchman like the dust, while the Englishman was glad to escape the same fate by surrendering the contents of his pockets to this fine fellow. These may serve as specimens of what is allowed to poison the minds of those who can read; while those who cannot are excited by yet grosser fictions. The attack on the monastery of Solovetski, in the White Sea last year, was spread with great rapidity through the country, with many comments, improvements, and additions by the priesthood. I heard one account of it from a peasant, who said that all the monks had been impaled by the English barbarians, who had no respect either for the holy place or the holy men who inhabited it. I have frequently heard it asserted that there were no soldiers in the place; and if I remember right, the report by the head of the monastery to the synod was to that effect, stating that there were only a few invalids, who were employed as servants about the place. It is for those who made this brutal (Russian account) attack upon a quiet religious retreat, to prove that it was a fortified place, although no Russian will ever be convinced of it. Messrs. Bright & Co. are wonderfully popular with this party, for all their speeches are diligently translated and commented upon in the Russian papers. They are generally represented as the only true expositors of the feelings of the majority of the people of England; so that the Russians are firmly convinced that the populace is ripe for a rising; and I have no doubt the disturbances, which unfortunately took place in the metropolis, were misrepresented as a serious revolution, caused by the burdens entailed on the people by the expenses of the war. Last March there was an absurd story spread about a similar occurrence, without any foundation whatever. Russia, like a drowning man, catches at straws!

(To be concluded in our next.)

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., AUGUST 27, 1855.

THE ESCHEAT QUESTION.

MR. COOPER TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—Some allowance may be made for those who have the wrong side of an argument, for any nonsense, or turning things into ridicule, will please some people better than sound argument; but when you give names you ought to keep to the truth.

In your "Rapid progress of Escheat" you put the case backside foremost, and then call it my theory. My theory is to show that there is sufficient cause for an investigation of the conditions of the grants; and that the fifth section of the Land Purchase Act requires the titles to be investigated. But there are several objections advanced against my theory, viz:—that the length of time has confirmed the grants; that the indulgence of 1816 has confirmed them; that the ministers' despatches of twelve or fifteen years old has done away with an Act of two years old for the investigation of titles. Now as every man, who has formed an opinion, may adhere to his opinion until there is a legal decision, it makes my case much stronger, and shows the necessity of a legal investigation. Therefore my theory is, that a court be constituted, with a jury of twelve men, on their oath, to try the titles and to give a verdict according to evidence; and let the whole matter in dispute go before them. If they confirm the grants, it will set the question at rest; but if they declare them forfeited, it will be a proof that they ought to have been tried long ago.

I have not called a meeting here or any where else, nor have I been on Township 55, as you say; but I have attended three meetings by request, and they were unanimous for an investigation of the titles of the grantees. At two of the meetings there was some opposition to a dissolution of the House of Assembly, as they had been led to believe that it was a plan of the Charlottetown Tories to get into the offices; but when they were informed that Messrs. Palmer and Haviland voted with the Liberals against my motion for an investigation of titles, it altered the case. As to sections of the French settlements being opposed to such investigation, it is a proof that they are misinformed and in error. There is none who has suffered more by the proprietors than the French, and most likely they are in dread of the proprietors; but that is no reason why their neighbours should not inform them better, and teach them to look for their rights as well as other people.

I understood that when the resolutions of the meeting of Queen's and King's Counties were published for general information, it was a fair representation of public opinion, (until you got up another meeting in opposition,) and that the inhabitants would subscribe the petitions at their leisure. If the people in Charlottetown were laying wagers as to the results, it shows they had no hand in the proceedings, if they had, they might have gained their wager.

You appear to have made a mistake of the names of some of the deputation who waited upon the Colonial Minister, and you make a mistake in the object of the deputation. Their names were Lord Melville, Sir H. Seymour, Mr. Cunard, Mr. Haviland and Mr. Hill. And if I were to hazard an opinion as to their business it would be—to effect a compromise, and resign their grants. This would be the best

and most regular way of settling escheat agitation; and the only way to drive them to it is pressure from without—and therefore the necessity for the people to sign the petitions. But if I am right in my opinion, I am not such a niggard as to deny the Government their share of the pressure, but to allow the Tenant Compensation and Rent Roll Tax their share of the weight.

Yours, &c.,
WM. COOPER.

Sailor's Hope, August 17, 1855.

THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER TO MR. COOPER.

SIR—You affect to believe that I have the "wrong side" of the argument regarding the Escheat question, and that in the remarks which I lately offered in reference to it, I did not "keep to the truth." It will not be difficult, however, to turn the tables upon you—to show that you, Sir, are in the interesting position you have assigned to me—and that you have not only the "wrong side" of the argument, but that you willfully and obstinately persist in misstating and concealing the truth.

Your theory, you say, is to show that "there is sufficient cause for an investigation of the conditions of the grants, and that the fifth section of the Land Purchase Act requires the titles to be investigated." Sir, there is a palpable perversion of the truth in the whole, but particularly in the last part of this sentence. Whether there is "sufficient cause" for an investigation of the conditions of the grants, is not the question, but whether such an investigation is possible or practicable—that is the question. You know it is not practicable. You know that you have agitated the Island on that question for very many years—that you have had the tenantry, from one end to the other of it, pledged to support that question—that you advised them to refuse paying their rent, in order to test it, while you paid your own; and that the consequences were—distress, ruin and beggary to many honest and industrious families. You know that a House of Assembly was elected to affirm the practicability of Escheat—that they passed a Bill authorising the establishment of a Court—that you made two journeys to England in the capacity of a Delegate to advocate the practicability of the measure under the very nose of the Colonial Minister. But what were you told then?—what were you told before then? what have you been told since? Why, that the King's Government, and the Queen's Government would positively not listen to any application for the establishment of a Court of Escheat,—that such a thing was impracticable—impossible—totally out of the question. There is no necessity for going over the old story about the non-fulfilment of the conditions in the original grants,—we all know, and all admit, that they were not complied with;—neither is there any use to remind us of the "Indulgence" of 1816—nor of the lapse of time, alleged as a bar to the investigation so strenuously sought for. All that is necessary for us to think about now is—that the Imperial Government have, over and over again, declared their determination to waive their right to the fulfilment of the conditions. And surely if that Government had a right to impose conditions in any case, they had an equal right to withdraw them—no matter whether the instrument of withdrawal were a Prince Regent or a Secretary of State. The despatches of a Secretary of State—such as you may affect to despise them—bind the Government, of which that Secretary is a member, to any and every decision, to any and every expression of opinion, contained in them. You ought, and do know enough of the art of Government, to be convinced that this is no new or erroneous doctrine.

I have said that the second part of the sentence above quoted from your letter, in reference to the fifth section of the Land Purchase Act, is, most especially, a palpable perversion of the truth. I will prove what I have said. The Land Purchase Act became law in 1853. In 1854 you published two or three letters in the *Examiner*, in which you praised that measure, as the best that could be adopted for the relief of the tenantry. You remember those letters. You admitted to Mr. Coles—(see your own pamphlet) that you praised the Land Bill, but you did praise it, you say, to uphold the popularity of the liberal party. You may think that a convenient way of getting out of a dilemma, Mr. Cooper; but it is a very awkward one. I ask you—Did you ever once, in the newspapers or out of them, from 1853 to the Session of 1855, utter a word in reference to the fifth section of the Land Bill, as requiring the formation of a Court of Escheat, or Inquiry, or Investigation, call it what you will? If you thought that the fifth section authorised such a Court, why did you not mention it in your published letters? Why did you permit two years to elapse without calling upon the Government to put such a Court in operation? Why did you suffer months to pass away, after the purchase of the Worrel estate, without calling the Government to account for the non-establishment of the Court, when you knew, as every body knew, that the purchase was effected without reference to such a Court? You say the fifth section of the Land Purchase Act authorises an investigation of the titles—meaning thereby the original grants. This, I repeat, Sir, is a gross perversion of the truth. Allow me to quote for your better information that part of the section which refers to an investigation:—

"Y. It shall be the duty of such a Commissioner of Public Lands, from time to time, when any such tender for the sale of lands shall be referred to him by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to examine into the same, and the descriptions and particulars thereof, and to investigate, or cause to be investigated, the title of such lands, and he shall make a report of the result of such examination and investigation to the Government."

Now, Sir, tell me what there is in the above quotation to justify the opinion you have formed, or pretend to have formed, of the section. Is there a word there about the conditions imposed on the original grantees? Is the remotest allusion made to a Court of Escheat? Not a syllable, Sir, justifies your erroneous interpretation. If the section could bear the construction you seek to fasten upon it, the Bill would never have become law. The Governor could sanction no such Bill,—if he did, the Government at home would not only disallow the Bill, but would probably recall the Queen's representative. And even if it were possible to deceive the Governor here, and deceive the Government in England, by having smuggled into the Land Purchase Bill a clause authorising an investigation into the conditions of the original grants, why, Sir, the Bill would be a dead letter—a piece of gross trickery and delusion. Where is there a proprietor who would offer to sell to Government, if he were told by Government, as he must be, that before a purchase could be effected an inquiry must be made to see if the conditions of the original grant of the estate were complied with? The fact is, the Land Purchase Bill, with such a clause as you think it contains, would not be a Bill for the purchase of lands, but a Bill to authorise the escheat of the lands of proprietors.

It is extremely childish in you or any one else to suppose, or pretend to suppose, that the fifth section of the Land Purchase Act can legitimately bear your interpretation. That Act was passed during the administration of Sir Alexander Bannerman. Two years previous to its passage Sir Alexander carried to this colony a letter of instructions from the then Colonial Secretary, (Lord Grey) in reference to the question of escheat. The following very significant passage will be found in that letter or despatch—(See your own pamphlet, page 25):—

"Without going into detail, it is sufficient for me here to remind you that repeated applications have been made, at different times, to Her Majesty's Government, to consent to deprive the Proprietors, under the original grants, of their Estates, on the ground of their having escheated to the Crown by reason of the non-fulfilment of conditions. These applications have been resisted, on grounds with which the correspondence

between successive Secretaries of State and Lieut. Governors of Prince Edward Island, especially since the year 1832, will render you sufficiently familiar. It is only my purpose now to state that Her Majesty's Government feel themselves bound to adhere to the decisions so repeatedly adopted by my predecessors in this matter, and to state that both on the grounds of justice to the landed Proprietors, and of the permanent interests of the community of Prince Edward Island, they regard such a measure as impracticable."

Here we are plainly told that Her Majesty's Government feel themselves bound to adhere to the decisions so repeatedly adopted by previous Secretaries of State—that is, the decision not to sanction the establishment of a Court of Escheat—because, says Lord Grey, Her Majesty's Government, "regard such a measure as impracticable."

And yet you presume to tell us that that very despatch is favourable to the establishment of an Escheat Court—that the Land Purchase Act legalises it—and that the local Government did wrong in not investigating the conditions contained in the original grant of the Worrel Estate, before purchasing it! You have a most extraordinary, but certainly not an enviable tact, for distorting and discolouring everything which happens to bear against the view you take of that which you call the "Land question."

There is much more "nonsense" in your letter to me, which it would not be difficult to expose, but I find that I have taken up too much space to pursue the discussion at present any further. You have called me out, and I am not going to shrink from you. I like this paper warfare. It is very pleasant pastime; but there would be much more excitement in it, if your position was not so confoundingly weak. It is rather discouraging for me to have to deal all the heavy blows—and what is worse, against an octogenarian adversary. I can't help smiling—as every body will—at your simplicity in believing the meeting at the head of the East River to be "a fair representation of public opinion"! on that question. The encouragement which your principles have every where received, since that meeting, shows pretty clearly on what side "public opinion" is enlisted. A general election, (for which you pretend to be so anxious), were it to occur to-morrow, would not, I am convinced, give half a dozen supporters to your cause on the floor of the Assembly.

The "opinion" which you hazard regarding the object of Messrs. Haviland, Holl and company's deputation to the Colonial office—is exceedingly amusing. You think the object of the absentee land proprietors is, "to effect a compromise and resign their grants." Why, that would be no "compromise" at all—it would be an unconditional surrender. If I thought you put any faith in the opinion you express, I would regard you as a gentleman of most unbounded credulity. I know that in this Island we are, most of us, the Lord help us, very soft and gullible, but that dose of humbug which you have swallowed, is entirely too strong for our stomachs.

Why do you evince such a desire, as is manifest in your letter, to exonerate Mr. Holl from intermeddling at the Colonial Office in the affairs of this Island? You say the person alluded to was not *Holl* but *Hill*. Some of the English papers did, indeed, print the name as Hill, in noticing the first deputation; but reliable information from London assures us that no other than the leader of the late Tory Government is the person alluded to. The extract from the *London Times*, however, which was reprinted in the *Examiner* of last week, in regard to the second deputation, put the matter beyond doubt as to the fact of Mr. Holl being one of the intermeddlers. Since the Tory party on this Island have become violent escheators—from pure love of escheat, of course!—you are, no doubt, influenced by the amiable desire to say as many evil things as you can in reference to the absent leaders and masters of your present accomplices.

With some intention of again paying my respects to you, at a future day, I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Charlottetown, August 24, 1855.

P. S.—I observe that you have sent a copy of your letter to the *Advertiser*, and that you expect all the other papers to reprint it. You are a fortunate man to have the whole press of the Colony open to you. We shall see whether that press is sufficiently impartial to give both sides of the question under discussion. E. E.

TOUR OF THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR TO BELFAST, WOOD ISLANDS AND GEORGETOWN.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, accompanied by the Hon. James Warburton, William Douse, Samuel Nelson and Charles Haszard Esquires, left Charlottetown on Monday morning last, on a visit to the south eastern section of this Island. His Excellency and party made a short stay at the residence of J. R. Bourke, Esq., Lot 49, where that gentleman provided a handsome luncheon. The next stopping place was Nicholson's Hotel, Cross Roads, Belfast, where two addresses were presented to His Excellency. His Excellency and his friends passed the first night under the hospitable roof of Roderick McKenzie, Esq., Flat River, and visited the Wood Islands settlement next morning. Here they rested to take lunch at the house of Peter Emery, Esq., whence they proceeded on towards Murray Harbour, stopping to dine with the Rev. Alex. Munro, Douse's road. His Excellency proceeded on towards Georgetown, calling at the residence of William Watson, Esq., Montague, where the party were hospitably entertained—and arrived at Aitkens's hotel at 9 o'clock. On the following morning the Lieut. Governor crossed the Ferry to St. Andrew's Point, in company with the Hon. J. Warburton and Hugh McDonald, Esq., where they received entertainment at the hands of the Hon. Mr. Wightman. They returned to Georgetown, and paid a visit to Mr. McDonald, at whose house an elegant *dejeuner* was prepared for them, and returned to town the same evening, stopping at the Rev. Mr. Brady's, Vernon River. The latter gentleman made His Excellency welcome, and showed him through his very handsome chapel, which is still undergoing very considerable improvement. Owing to the zeal and exertions of the Rev. Mr. Brady, this church has been very much enlarged, and adds greatly to the beauty of the district in which it is located.

The Addresses to His Excellency, and the Replies thereto, presented in the course of the tour, will be found below.

To His Excellency Dominick Daly, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor in and over Her Majesty's Island of Prince Edward, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the inhabitants of Flat River, Township No. 60, avail ourselves of this our earliest opportunity on Your Excellency's visit to this part of Prince Edward Island, to express to Your Excellency our affectionate regard for the welfare and solicitude of our most gracious Queen, and that although far distant from the throne, we are not the least unmindful of our duties as loyal subjects of Her Crown. We view with much pleasure, that after a period of many years Your Excellency has been the only Representative who has visited us, since the period of twenty years, which convinces us that Your Excellency's care and attention to our locality are of importance to our own individual concerns, and have a beneficial tendency hereafter, in being acquainted with our locality. We deeply deplore the war in which our most gracious Queen is so deeply engaged, but we pray it may end honourably to our country. In conclusion, we can only express our heartfelt gratitude to Your Excellency for your visit among us, and hope that much comfort may attend you, Mrs. Daly and her beloved family.

On behalf of the inhabitants,
ROBERT MORRISON.

Flat River, 21st August, 1855.

REPLY:

GENTLEMEN;

The gratification which I have experienced in becoming an eyewitness to the advancing state of your occupations has been very great, and I cannot but be surprised that so interesting a portion of Prince Edward Island should have been so seldom visited by my predecessors.

Whatever local information I may derive from this agreeable journey, will, when occasion offers, be brought into action, by the interest excited during its progress.

There could be no doubt of your constant loyalty to Her Majesty's Throne and Government, but your expression of it, accompanied as it is with your honourable wishes for success to Her Majesty's Arms, is highly commendable.

I thank you for your kind expressions respecting myself and family. We will not cease to feel a kindly interest in all that concerns your welfare and happiness.

D. DALY, Lieut. Governor.

To His Excellency Dominick Daly, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful subjects, the inhabitants of Belfast and vicinity, beg to approach your Excellency with the expression of a devoted attachment to our Sovereign, Queen Victoria, and of our high respect for your Excellency as Her Representative.

We are glad to observe the unity and friendship prevailing among Her Majesty's subjects in this Island during your Excellency's administration of the Government.

We consider ourselves highly honored by your Excellency's present visit, and sincerely wish you, Mrs. Daly and family, health, prosperity and happiness, and that wisdom and impartiality may guide you in directing your Government, to promote the welfare of those over whom you exercise authority.

Belfast, 21st August, 1855.

REPLY:

GENTLEMEN;

It is highly gratifying to me to receive this expression of your attachment to Her Majesty's Throne and Government.

It has been, and will continue to be, my endeavour to promote unity amongst all classes whose affairs are confided to my administration, not from inclination only, but from the conviction that it is unity alone which is wanting to the happiness and progress of the people of this Colony.

In accordance with this persuasion it will be my constant desire to conduct the affairs of the Government with that strict impartiality, which is necessary towards ensuring respect for the laws established for the protection of the rights of individuals and of society.

For your wishes for the happiness of my family, I return you my best thanks, and assure you that your contentment and prosperity will at all times be heard of by them with a lively interest.

D. DALY, Lieut. Governor.

To His Excellency Dominick Daly, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the members of "Blooming Rose" Division, Sons of Temperance, inhabitants of Belfast, hail with pleasure your Excellency's appearance amongst us, and avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our love and attachment to our most gracious Sovereign, and great regard for your Excellency personally.

We feel ourselves highly honored by this your first visit to Belfast, which we hope will prove pleasing and agreeable to your Excellency, and while it will afford you an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the requirements of this district, it will also animate friendly feelings between your Excellency and its inhabitants.

We beg to assure your Excellency that the grand object of our organization is the social and moral improvement of our fellow colonists, and feeling convinced that the effects of the liquor traffic are ruinous to any country where it is sanctioned by law, and injurious to the best interests of its inhabitants, we shall exert every lawful means to procure its entire prohibition.

We hope that your Excellency, lady and family, may be long spared to enjoy the richest blessings of a beautiful Providence; and that God may direct you to govern this Colony with honor to yourself and satisfaction to the people.

In behalf of the "Blooming Rose" Division, we remain, Your Excellency's humble and obedient servants,

WILLIAM McLEAN, Chairman.

ANGUS MACRAE,
DANIEL FRASER,
J. McDONALD,
CHARLES MORRISON, } Committee.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN;

The sentiments of your address, expressive of loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty, are highly gratifying to me and creditable to yourselves.

I am happy to have had an opportunity of witnessing the improving state of the part of the Island in which you reside. The interest of the inhabitants will at all times receive my anxious attention.

In respect to your wishes for the moral improvement of the population, regarding the use of intoxicating liquors, they are such as I concur with every well thinking person in approving; but the efficacy of legal enactment to carry out such a desire appears to me to be more than doubtful.

Your good wishes for the prosperity of myself and family demand my best acknowledgments, which I beg you to accept.

D. DALY, Lieut. Governor.

To His Excellency Dominick Daly, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward and its Dependencies, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the inhabitants of Wood Islands Settlement and vicinity, approach your Excellency with feelings of sincere respect, to welcome you amongst us on this your first visit. We beg leave to state that we are firmly attached to our beloved Queen and Government, and are grateful to Her Majesty for appointing a gentleman of your Colonial experience to rule over us.

Regarding your Excellency in your capacity of Governor, and as a Citizen, we feel confident you will direct your energies and your private sympathies to promote the happiness of the loyal inhabitants of this fair and fertile Island.

We know it must prove gratifying to your Excellency's feelings, in your tour through the various sections of the Island, to find the labour and industry of the farmer blessed with a bountiful harvest; and it must certainly be equally pleasing to your Excellency to find the rights and privileges conferred by her gracious Majesty on her beloved subjects repaid with a still more abundant harvest of love and attachment to her person and throne. In conclusion, permit us to offer our sincere wishes for the continued health and happiness of your Excellency and family; and we hope that you may