had taken the wooden bridge; whilst the commander-in-Chief, with nearly all the cavalry, the 99th, and Queen's, pursued the enemy two or three miles along the canal from camp to camp towards Pekin. The cavalry charged three or four times, and slaughtered a considerable number. I don't think that our killed and wounded on the 18th and to-day amount to more than 25. The French are encamped at the stone bridge, and we at the wooden bridge, about seven miles from Pekin. One of the roads to Pekin passed through our camp, and there are two more (one of them paved) on the north side of the canal. A flag of truce was sent in to-day from Pekin, with a letter, the purport of which is understood to be a request to reopen negotiations. I have omitted to mention that Mr. Wade was sent on the 19th with a flag of truce to Tung-chau, and was fired at five times.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROGRESS OF THE ALLIED FORCES.

SEVEN MILES FROM PEKIN, SEPT. 22.—An attempt has been made at negotiation, which has ended in the smoke of more gunpowder, the partial deception of Lord Elgin and Mr. Parkes, and, I grieve to say, the capture of the latter by the Tartars, with the *Times'* correspondent, Mr. Loch, Lord Elgin's private secretary, Mr. de Norman, *attache*, Captain Brabazon, of the Artillery, and the adjutant of Fane's Horse, with some twenty Sowars, and the murder of a French officer. On the 20th ultimo, the whole of our force were encamped at or near the Taku Forts; now they are scattered over a space of some eighty miles, to say nothing of the 44th Regiment, who were packed off in a hurry, on the 27th or 28th, to relieve Shanghai, where, it appears, they were not wanted; the Royal Marines having settled the rebels before their arrival. It was not until the 1st inst., I think, that the first move was made towards the north. This consisted in the advance of our 1st division, who crossed the Peiho, over a bridge of boats, about two miles above Tong-ku, and were followed on the 2d by the 2d division (with the exception of a wing of the Buffs, who were left to garrison the Taku Forts), the French marching along the left bank of the river. The first halting place was about a half a mile from the bridge of boats, on a plain nearly encircled by orchards full of grapes, peaches, apples, pears, and water melons, which enabled the army generally to lay in at a cheap rate a large stock of future "mollygrubs" and "collywabbles," not to mention more serious complaints, from which they have been (to an extent seriously embarrassing the doctors, I believe) suffering ever since. The second march was to a place called Kikko, the third to Kih-tang-kou, and the fourth brought the whole army up to Tien-tsin, the marches consequently averaging about eight miles each. But although they were so short, and the start was generally made before daybreak each morning, still they were much more fatiguing than any one would imagine, as they were never finished in less than four hours, during the last two of which the heat was always very great, and to men carrying heavy packs, as well as their rifles and ammunition, very trying. At Tien-tsin the army halted for nearly a week on a magnificent plain immediately outside the town, living in clover in more senses than one, while the French occupied a position on the left bank of the river, and an attempt was made at negotiation, which has ended in smoke, the Chinese commissioner sent down to treat with us having declared himself afraid to sign any convention on his own responsibility, and almost hinting, I believe, that our best plan would be to advance upon Pekin, and so frighten the Emperor into submission by a warlike demonstration at his very door. On the 9th inst., accordingly, a force consisting of the King's Dragoon Guards, Fane's and Probyn's Horse, Baring's Desborough's and Stirling's Batteries, the Royal Marines, and 99th Regiment, the whole under the command of Gen. Michell, marched past Tien-tsin, to a place called Pookoo, ten miles distant. On the following day they marched to Nan-tain, eight miles further, and the next to Hoo-si-woo, when they halted for five days again until the 2d Queen's, the 60th Rifles, and some 2,000 French came up. Almost the whole of the road for these last four marches was through endless fields of millet, extending as far as the eye could reach, and the camping ground at the end of each of them was nearly as comfortable as a bed of thorns, being upon half cut beds of millet, the spikes of which were nearly as sharp and strong as those surrounding the Taku Forts, and had, I verily believe, being left so by the Tartars, in the hope that they would effectually prevent our advance without any further aid from their prowess. So far not one of them had shown his face within range since the dressing they got at Taku. At Hoo-si-woo, accordingly, Mr. Parkes was emboldened to ride forward to Mut-ow, about ten miles further on, attended by a cavalry escort, and the gentlemen I have already mentioned, in order, I believe, to propose to the inhabitants that if they would send us out supplies of fuel, flour, &c., we would not molest them, but encamp outside, as we had previously done in the case of every village or town we had passed. They first of all told him that they would consent to furnish us with supplies if we would agree to their selecting the camping ground for us, but on his replying that the general could not agree to any condition, they immediately made him and all his companions prisoners, with the exception of a few King's Dragoon Guards, who succeeded in cutting their way out. Col. Walker, of the Bay's, and Mr. Thomson, of the Commissariat, who had ridden out in the same direction, were also very nearly taken prisoners, a French officer who accompanied them being cut to pieces—Col. Walker only escaping with the loss of his sword, and a cut over the hand, and Mr. Thomson with a lance wound in the back. The cavalry, artillery, 2d Queen's Royal Marines, and 99th Regiment, were immediately ordered out by Sir Hope Grant, and about middle way between Hoo-si-woo, our friends of Singho celebriety, and whom we had heard had never drawn a rein after that affair until they reached Pekin, again came in sight, extending in a wide semicircle before Mut-ow as far as they eye could reach. The Queen's, who were in advance, were immediately ordered to halt, until the rest of the regiments came up, and a line of battle was formed, the French taking the right, Queen's the centre, Royal Marines and 99th the left, and artillery and cavalry the flanks. They had not advanced far in this order before fire was opened on them from some dozen points in the aforesaid semicircle, while the Tartar cavalry threatened our flanks. They were promptly met, however, by ours, but the Irregular Horse who were on the right flank, the King's Dragoon Guards being on the left, alone succeeded in getting among them—with the to-be-expected result of "chawing" them up completely, of course. Our artillery, meanwhile, thundered dreadful responses to theirs, and with very unequal effect—theirs doing little or no damage, ours telling with deadly effect, and finally completely silencing all their batteries, which were planted in all sorts of extraordinary positions, and were evidently of quite an impromptu construction, some at the entrance to villages, others among clumps of trees, and others behind natural embankments. The infantry then advanced and threw in a smart fire on them as they retreated, our nimble and gallant allies even getting among them with the bayonet, I believe, and killing great numbers. The enemy fled in every direction, and did not even attempt to defend Mut-ow itself, which was accordingly entered and taken possession of the same evening, and proved to be a very comfortable and picturesque little town, with a tumble-down old brick wall of great height, and once, doubtless, of great strength. The following day was made a day of rest, and yesterday the force again advanced into the plain, and had really a hard day's fighting. They had not gone more than about three miles before the enemy again presented themselves in a vast semi-circle. We met them pretty much as we did on the previous day, but got closer to them on several occasions—both the Irregular Horse and King's Dragoon Guards getting well among them, as well as our more advanced parties of infantry—although from the nature of the ground (endless fields of cut millet, intersected by wide ditches, and separated every here and there by dense thickets), and their knowledge of how to avail themselves of it, it was very difficult to get near them at all. If we had infantry alone, I believe they actually might have the audacity to close with us (as they were evidently plucky enough men). but, as it was, they showed themselves, on both days, impressed with a very salutary dread of our artillery and cavalry, and although they made several apparent charges at our cavalry, I believe they were almost all merely feints to draw them into some trap or other (such as a concealed ditch or rough piece of ground), while entangled in which they might have an opportunity to fire their gingalls at them from under the cover of some wall, or copse of trees. However, the result of the two days' fighting has been that we have captured upwards of a hundred cannon, most of them 6 pounder brass guns, of a very good description, immense stores of forage, grain, and tea, and have got to within seven miles of Pekin, and have, I should think, thoroughly demoralised the Tartar army, capturing and entirely destroying all their camps and munitions of war, so far. [They say that Sankolinsin commanded in person on both days, and that he had ten Mongolian princes, each with 5,000 men, under him.] We have now taken up a position on the right bank of the grand canal, only seven miles from the Celestial capital, but are again encamping among fields of spikes (of which our worthy and gallant general seems to think we are fond, as he never lets us among the trees), there (like so many impaled martyrs) we are to await, I believe, the arrival of some more troops and stores. A "shave" has just come in to me that the Emperor has bolted from Pekin, and that Sankolinsin has sent in another flag of truce, but I have not time to find out how far it is true. Great sympathy is felt for Mr. Parkes and his party, and I have heard a report, which I earnestly hope it is true, that Lord Elgin has declared he will order Pekin to be sacked if he is not given up again, with all his party, alive and in good condition.

TIEN-TSIN, SEPT. 26.—It appears that Messrs. Loch, Bowlby, and Capt. Brabazon are all safe and well treated at Pekin, with Mr. Consul Parkes. The army is within five miles of Pekin, after an engagement on Saturday, in which the enemy is said to have kept at a respectful distance from our artillery, but the French got at them and treated them very roughly, killing, it is said, 400 or 500 men. We had one officer and a few men wounded. The Emperor's brother and another Mandarin of the highest feather came out to camp, but Lord Elgin would not see them until Mr. Parkes and the other prisoners were given up. Tung-chau was given up to pillage, and the usual atrocities of the Tartars were committed by themselves on their women, who they deprived of life, and on their children, whom they threw into wells. The latter was past doubt, as the bodies were seen when the place was entered.

WRECK OF THE "BRANSCOMBE,"

AND DREADFUL SUFFERINGS OF THE CREW.

The following particulars of the barque Branscombe, which sailed from Bristol on the 8th of November, and Penarth Roads on the 21st November, last year, have been written by one of the crew:—

H. B. M. Consulate, Amoy, China, Sept. 20, 1861.—We left Shanghai on the 31 of August, and proceeded on our voyage to Manilla, and all went well till Sunday, the 12th, when it began blowing fresh. Soon after midnight the wind increased, and we tried to close-reef the topsails, when both split to pieces, as did the foretopmast staysail; we then put preventive gaskets on the yards, but wherever the wind could catch a bit of the sail it was gone directly. On Monday, the 13th of August, the typhoon was upon us at half-past eleven a.m. 'Starboard' was called, and immediately land was seen straight a-head. We squared the foreyards, in the hope of wearing the ship, but it was too late; we were not a hundred fathoms from the shore. Her starboard bow struck on a rock, and we cut away the mainmast in the hope of easing her. We could not get out the boats, as there was a tremendous sea running. About five minutes after she struck she broke her back, the foremast and mizen-topmast went, and she canted over to starboard, when Mr. Gomer, second mate, and three of us took to the water; none of the others would follow. When I was leaving the wreck the suction was so great that it nearly took me down, but I had the good fortune to catch a rope, so I hung on till I saw a piece of timber, which I made for, and took fast hold of. The seas were now making a clean breach over the wreck. I was washed among the rocks, where I got terribly bruised and cut; at length a heavy sea washed me high and dry, and I contrived to crawl along the rocks, where I found two of the others, the second mate having gone down. We then saw the captain and mate on the bottom of the long-boat, and helped them ashore. We got under the shelter of a rock, and could see six hands clinging to the stump of the mainmast, the sea making a clean breach over them; then five of them got on to the mizenmast, where they remained for about two hours; the ship then broke up, and we never saw them more. We climbed the rocks for about two hours, but could not reach the top, so we came down again and made a hut for the night. Next morning we tried again, but it was no use. We looked among the wreck for provisions, but only found four bruised pumpkins. We then set off to explore the place, and found that we were on the uninhabited island of Agincourt, after which we returned and set to work building a larger hut. Next morning we found a boat with her bilge and stern stove in, and commenced to try and repair her. Two hands went to look for provisions, but found none, so we were careful of our pumpkins, that being all the provisions we had, with the exception of a little pig. We finished the boat by Sunday, but could not launch her, owing to contrary winds and a heavy sea. Our pumpkins being all done, we had the luck to pick up two bits of pork which the fish had turned up. We had some of that to eat, and cut the rest up to dry. On Thursday, the 23d, at noon, we launched the boat and got clear of the island. On Saturday we killed our pig, which was almost starved to death, and drank the blood and ate the liver on that day, and the heart, brain, lights, and entrails on the next. On Sunday morning we saw a brig, but directly she saw us she braced up and went away from us. We then hove to the boat, it blowing very hard all night. The captain stuck at the lee oar eighteen hours to keep her head to sea. On the 31st we made the island of Formosa, and next morning the natives took us round to Cahan in a boat, where we got on board the brig North Star in an awful state, being so weak that we were unable to walk. The captain was very kind to us, supplying us with clothes, tobacco, &c. We left Cahan, and reached Amoy on the 17th September, so you see we had ten days ashore on an uninhabited island, and eight days in an open boat, almost in a sinking state, keeping two hands continually bailing her out. We lived all this time on about three ounces of rotten pork per day, so that we were nearly done for.

RE-ACTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN NAPLES.

The state of Naples has not improved since power has passed from Garibaldi's into Count Cavour's hands. The re-actionary movement in the provinces—so the French Government journals, at least, inform us—has broken out afresh, and in not less than five provinces, with the Abruzzi at their head, has it become necessary to proclaim the state of siege.

ALLEGED CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE KING OF ITALY AND THE POPE.

Letters from Turin allude to an exchange of letters between the King of Italy and the Holy Father, having for its object "an amicable arrangement" of their little differences. Among the conditions proposed is one that the Pope should abandon the temporal sovereignty in favour of the King, receiving a civil list of 5,000,000 livres, and 100,000 livres for each Cardinal, with a place in the Senate of the Kingdom of Italy. Both Pope and King would reside in the Eternal City, one at the Capitol, the other at the Vatican. This is probably a mere fancy sketch, of which we may expect to have many brought before the public eye pending the fluctuations of this most difficult Roman question.

THE ROYAL FAMILY OF NAPLES.

The Dowager Queen of Naples has arrived in Rome, with the Princess and the young children. They have taken up their residence in the Quirinal. The young Queen remains at Gaeta with the Princes.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—Mr. Monk, in the *Islander* of the 7th inst., says that he is prepared to defend the Normal School system, as introduced and carried on by him if I will throw off the anonymous mask. Since I have chosen to write anonymously I will continue to do so until I see sufficient reason for my doing otherwise. This, however, should not prevent Mr. Monk from making a defence of the system in question. Should he prove that I have stated anything false or unfounded I shall be most happy to apologize. In the mean time, I repeat what I said before that I consider the Normal School a great imposition on the Colony. I dare say that it has already cost the Island upwards of £2000, and I ask Mr. Monk what corresponding benefit has the cause of Education derived from it? Schoolmasters now go to other schools in the city to prepare themselves to pass the Board, and many of them did so when Mr. Monk was at the head of the Normal School. I do not say that Mr. Monk was not qualified to impart sufficient instruction to them, but his time was too much taken up with the more important employment of drilling his juvenile recruits, and teaching them to sing "The three blind mice." Some years ago the candidates for the teachership were accustomed to go to the Academy to receive instruction, but it being perceived that they were a considerable drawback on the time which the masters should bestow on their other pupils, it was thought that a Normal School would remedy the evil. The present state of affairs proves to a demonstration how totally inadequate our present Normal School is for the purposes for which it was first established. I believe that Mr. Monk is far more capable of conducting this Institution than Mr. Webster; however, I think that the system is radically defective. I consider it an exotic which will never thrive on American soil. I have been informed, on excellent authority, that Mr. Monk used to be whole weeks without giving the candidates their regular lessons, and that when a boy was unable to do his sums he was not shewn how to do them. If this were the case, I think the sooner this system is superseded the better for the education of the youth of this Island. It would be interesting to hear Mr. Monk's defence of this part of the "system."

If we wished to train, for the Volunteer service, the whole of the rising generation, male and female, perhaps our present Normal School would prove to be a very powerful auxiliary for the purpose. If the old saying "*Ne puero gladium*" were set aside and a supply of suitable arms were provided, I think this Institution would be almost perfect for the various "drill" exercises. The marching and countermarching of the "hopefuls" is already excellent—their stepping is as regular as that of any of our Volunteers—they keep their bodies in a singularly erect and graceful posture—their stretching forth their arms into the air will tend to enlarge their chests, cause the blood to flow freely through their whole system, greatly strengthen the muscles of their arms, so that they may be enabled to wield the sword most valiantly; in a word, the whole round of exercises is very well adapted to make their bodies robust and athletic for military service. Then there is a great advantage in the shouting and yelling peculiar to the "system;" for their vocal exercises will give them loud, stentorian voices, which will be very useful to those who may hereafter be entrusted with command. Should this training system be properly conducted for a few years longer we might indulge the hope that we would have a regular and well disciplined army of valorous youths and maidens; and should we be fortunate enough to have Mr Monk appointed Generalissimo of this patriotic band, we would have nothing to fear from foreign or domestic foes. What a magnificent spectacle would it not be to behold a splendid army of ardent and gallant youths, headed by numerous battalions of amazonian virgins, marching, under the command of a "General Monk," to the courage-inspiring and soul-stirring martial air of "*Chick-a-dee dee!*" Since Mr. Monk is so willing to rush into print, why did he not defend himself when he was deprived of his situation by the present Government? And why is he so ready to defend the Normal School system *now*? The expectation of a Professor's Chair in the new College has perhaps something to do with the affair. He had, I understand, an open field for doing so—for, if I have not been misinformed, a member of the Executive Council spoke of him publicly in terms far from complimentary. *Cassis tutissima virtus.*

A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

Dec. 14th.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—Without wishing to encroach on "A Lover of Justice's" ground, I cannot refrain at the present moment from offering a few remarks on our Normal School. The rigorous assaults of your anonymous correspondent have called forth a challenge from Mr. Monk, late teacher of that Institution. It is to be regretted, however, that Mr. Monk has inserted in his challenge a condition which will probably save him the trouble of defending a position which appears to me to be indefensible. Let not the editor of the *Islander*, or *Monitor*, or Mr. Monk suppose that the Normal School receives opposition from Catholics alone. The general opinion at one time was that the Normal School was little better than an expensive *model* humbug, and the sooner abolished the better. This opinion even at the present time extensively obtains. Now, that the public may hear evidence on both sides, when the Institution is brought to the bar of public opinion through the medium of the public journals, I think it imperatively incumbent on Mr. Monk or Mr. Webster to defend it against all attacks, irrespective of whence they emanated. It may be superfluous to state that it can be a matter of no consequence to the public to know who "A Lover of Justice" is, or indeed any other writer on a public question, provided his remarks are founded on truth, and bear the impress of a legitimate object. I trust, therefore, that Mr. Monk will reconsider the matter, and, whether "A Lover of Justice" throws off the anonymous mask or not, that he will come out and defend, if he can, an institution, for presiding over which he received, and his successor now receives, a salary of £200 per annum, and two assistants at salaries of £150 and £45 each, costing the country altogether £395.

Truth now compels me to subscribe to most of what "A Lover of Justice" has written. An experience of three months has afforded me an intimate knowledge of the working of the Normal School, and I say boldly that it has failed in its object. Let me not, however, be understood as wishing to abolish a system of training for young men about to adopt the important and honorable profession of a teacher of youth. I am well aware that Education is not only a science, but an art—an art for which many whose learning is very extensive, are very little fitted. As a practical art, it requires dexterity, like any other art, which should be cultivated early in life. Reason and experience, therefore, teach us that to produce good and efficient teachers a regular system of training should be adopted; in fact an apprenticeship served. But will any one animated with a spirit of truth assert that the Normal School has added anything to the efficiency of our teachers? The most convincing proof that can be adduced to the contrary is to show that no teacher who has qualified since its establishment, has carried into effect the system taught there. It has been tried, to a limited extent, in two or three instances; but, in the attempt, the teachers gained only the ill-will of parents, and nearly lost their salaries in the end. I must be candid enough to admit, that it far surpasses the range of my intellect to comprehend the necessity of spending an hour daily in teaching a promiscuous throng of urchins to march round the *school-rooms, a la militaire*, or the utility of such an accomplishment, particularly to females, when acquired even to perfection. Beyond this I might safely aver, there is nothing taught within the institution which has not been taught and practised; and that too, with far more efficiency, in our common schools previous to the introduction of the much vaunted Normal School.

Without giving the *routine* adopted in this school, it would be impossible to point out its defects. It is not my intention to give such a description in this communication; I reserve that for another. I must, however, refer to a part I particularly noted at the term I attended that institution. From calculations I made, I ascertained that the actual school hours amounted to an average of three hours daily—playhours, marching and countermarching having absorbed the rest. Again, what would be thought of a teacher who, under the designation of mental arithmetic, would propose questions such as the following:—"How many feet have two boys, three girls, and a codfish?" "How many wings have three geese, two hens, and a donkey?" "How many eyes have six boys, four pins and three needles?" And others equally absurd. And yet, such have actually been proposed for the improvement of scholars, and the edification of the pupil teachers attending the model training school! Should any district teacher attempt to engraft such nonsense in the school under his charge, the parents would speedily open their eyes to the beauties of the Normal training system, and probably cause the teacher to make tracks for parts unknown—*minus* his salary.

In no department of society whatever, perhaps, is there anything like the amount of quackery which exists in this age under the name—the much abused name—of education. We do not tolerate quacks in other things; people will not entrust the title deeds of their property to lawyers who cannot produce certificates of their competency. In medicine, we endeavor, by various precautions, to obstruct those who have not the requisite knowledge of the means of dealing with the human frame, and restoring it from a state of sickness to a state of health. But in that which is of more importance than the practice of either law or medicine, we tolerate the universal access of unqualified practitioners. It cannot be denied that the Normal School and the present Board of Education—and that, too, by means of the very machinery intended to exclude them—have acquired the unenviable character of empirics in education. If, then, we are to pay for a training school, let us have one worthy of the name—one, in attending which, the young men and women intending to qualify as teachers can feel and know that their time and money are not squandered.

As to the Board of Education, the public have already gained some insight into the competency of those constituting it for conducting the educational affairs of the Island. Mr. Sutherland being considered paramount at the Board, it might be interesting to enquire what superior abilities has he ever exhibited to entitle him to the important position of dictator to the Government in matters of education? True, he wrote and spoke on the errors of *Popery* quite zealously; but any pious old lady in the community could do the same. He also wrote several long, *very long* letters on Education, remarkable only for their extreme dreariness. But no one is silly enough to believe that his having done these things entitled him to any distinctive marks of favour from our paternal Government. His political services, however, had to be recompensed, and the Rev. gentleman's ambition was gratified in compelling the Government to adopt his views. At his suggestion one of the Charlottetown schools was closed, to the great injury of parents and children. An additional incubus was to be placed upon the country by appointing an assistant teacher to the Normal School. And lastly, a College with two professors at salaries of £300 each per annum, was to be established. In adopting this latter suggestion, the Government find themselves unable to carry out the provisions of the Act which they passed with such indecent haste at the close of the last Session, authorizing the establishment of a College. The experience of the last six months ought to teach the Government, if not impervious to such a trustworthy criterion, the truth of what I now assert—that the Rev. George Sutherland is no authority whatever in matters of education; and that he was never entitled to a seat at the Board of Education; and moreover, when he recommended the abolishment of the old Academy to make way for a Prince of Wales College, he knew neither the resources nor the real wants of the Colony.

But it is time I brought my remarks to a close. Before doing so, I would observe that the late Government set an example worthy of imitation in regard to this highly important matter. Their successful endeavors to raise the standard of education and the *status* of teachers, entitled them to the gratitude of the country; but it is discouraging to reflect that those most benefitted by the laudable exertions of that Government manifested the greatest amount of ingratitude. The teachers, however, have received a reward for their exertions to oust their benefactors rather unexpectedly, in being compelled, at the risk of a reduction of salary, to undergo a re-examination before a Board whose decisions are characterized as partial and unjust, and in spending five months instead of three, as formerly, at an institution which they themselves admit to be a hoax.

A NORMAL SCHOOL STUDENT.

December 13, 1860.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

ON DIT.

Editors and contributors of the *Monitor*, Cooper's Government Band Organ, namely, Hon. Mr. Amos, the convicted Forger, Tonalt of the het skin, occupier of posts and grateful friend of the Duke of Argyle; Bubbly Jock, Dominus Visitor and ex——d member of Assembly; the Colonial Secretary, Tenant's foe and Government House pet. Here is a choice pack of "jolly companions every one." Why Lor! what a splendiferous tail our Government has! the fag-end of it tipped off with the very upright honorable James B. Cooper, beloved and respected by all in the honor of his acquaintance. "Vive la bagatelle!" "Noli me tangere."

The last spawn of the *Monitor*, thrown out by the "jolly companions," was an Herculean effort, no winking—a real swinger, casting its dreadful missiles in all sorts of directions; none of your pea-pop-guns, sirs, but a thorough smasher, equal to a real Armstrong—a bottle of squirt weapon. Nobody killed, nobody hurt but something of a pleasant discharge of bad powder, for the amusement of the refined clique, the great respectables "The Opposition," the leader, was a ripper—a positive tear-all; it was discharged point *blank* from a long Ned great gun, worked by a new screw principle, called the tapeworm screw. Wonder when the "time will arrive" to load and fire again? When the worm bites. He is a terrible fine marksman, very fierce, but takes a long time to pop. Pity he is so slow. Spirits of turpentine might quicken him, or a little oil to the worm would facilitate its movements. So mote it be.

The Executive grenadier reconnoitering party took another peep at the Academy fortifications, with the view of battering it into a College. The Hon. Edward boldly skirmished in advance. Alone he did it, and carefully with great judgment crawled up to the picket fence on all fours, or as snakes go, on the abdominal region, he having and holding in the determined grasp of his long fingers a saw, a squirt and a jack-knife, resolved to saw off or whittle down something, having twisted himself serpentinely up to the picket fence defences without soil or injury, except in crossing a cowpath he laid his length alongside the pickets, resembling an alligator in ambush; but suddenly starting like a man finding "the time arrived," he raised the animal E—— to a vertical 83½ degrees, and with much alacrity, bobbed his pleasant countenance over the tall pickets, when thereupon and therent a certain number of fowls domestic took fright and ran with spreading wings, cackling and screeching in great fear, which roused the couchant beagle Pompey, and he observing the head and front of the offender cackling over the fence, barked viciously at the phenomenon, whereupon finding he was discovered, the Hon. Skirmisher dodged under cover of the fence, and closing one eye, peeped between the pickets, and observing the public army arrayed against him in his College assault, and defending the old Academy with too many guns for the weapons he held in hand, or that the Government could bring to bear upon the opposition, he concluded to raise the siege, and thereupon acting he gracefully retired stern front, as blue jacket says, and observed great caution in presenting his nose, which, according to Roderick Random, had been at the promontory towards the pickets, and his eyes foll flash upon the Academy gate in some uneasiness about Pompey, and steadily keeping the back step of his march direct for his Government comrades, standing to arms and protecting his rear, he at length halting with his face to the foe, the pickets, found himself in line, eyes right, with his glorious companions in arms, unscathed, save in the crawl over the cowpath, and unfrightened, except by the baying of the beagle, and the screeching cackle of the fowls, which rather shook his nerves, particularly as the story of the Roman goose flashed across his *active* mind.

The reconnoiterers retired from the field, and marching double to the Castle, communicated with the Commander-in-Chief. The Hon. E—— reported the efficient state of the opposing army, the strength of the fortress—the inefficient state of the Government finances to carry on a useless and expensive war, and believed that "the time had not arrived" to batter down the Academy, and raise up a Prince of Wales College; whereupon the Chief scratched his own ear, and with a sigh said, what becomes of my opening speech last Session, promising further educational benefits? What becomes of my Government College scheme? What of the imported Professor at £300 per annum since he was engaged in Scotland, his passage paid across, and house rent here since his arrival—a large sum from the revenue without any equivalent? Do you suppose the Professor, a gentleman, will become a mere pedagogue, and accept a school teacher's situation, like Currie or any other of that class? No, no; it cannot be expected; he must return at the expense of this country to his home, all through the weakness and imbecility of my Executive advisers. Gentlemen, you are driving the state coach down hill at a rapid rate, and will carry me with you into the mud, and run below. The Hon. Skirmisher said it can't be helped, your Excellency; "the time has not arrived" to raise up the Prince of Wales College. But, Master Edward & Co., the time has arrived to pay the Professor; the Government warrant must be issued for services *non est*; and the old Academy, after an inglorious slumber of seven or eight months, to the tune of hondreds of pounds loss to the Colony, will reopen on the 15th January, 1861. What an efficient Government we have!

"The hope of the brave and the free."

RECORDER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—Being impressed by the tone of some letters and Editorials in the *Islander*, previous to the late General Election, in which it was stated that the Schoolmasters were poorly paid, and that the Officials, who were not so hard worked, were over paid—several of my neighbours have often asked me what reforms have been made on these points? We have come to the conclusion that the whole agitation against the late Government was all humbug and deception, for instead of reforming any abuses, we find that a lot of hungry office hunters have benefited by the change. Formerly we had the pleasure of meeting a few office-holders who could give us some information on public matters, but now we only meet a lot of snivelling upstarts, who strut about the Town with cane in hand, pocketting double the amount of the pay of Schoolmasters: and our Colonial Secretary—who is seldom to be found in his office, getting his £350 of the people's money to obstruct every measure for their benefit. And a precious change has been made in the Legislative Council; instead of making it elective, it is crammed with proprietary tools. Look at Mr. Anderson's conduct—how did he serve the Tenantry before the Commissioners? Why, he did all he could to injure them and serve the proprietary faction. Look at our rejected Candidate, Jeremiah Simpson, member of the Legislative Council, and Honorable for life, holding a seat in the Executive, while it is notorious he could not poll fifty votes in any district in the Island; and of course he expresses the opinion of the Government when he tells us plainly that no proprietor will be bound by the Commissioners' decision who did not agree to their appointment; and he further declares that the Government never intended the decision should affect that class. Now, Sir, if this is all the benefit we are to get by excluding office-holders from the Legislature, and supporting the old compact party, the sooner we petition His Excellency for a dissolution of the House the better, for I can assure you the country is heartily sick of the present humbug.

Yours, A TENANT.

Lot 23, Dec. 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—You will oblige me by inserting in the *Examiner* the following observations on the remarks made by the Editor of the *Islander* of the 14th inst., in an article headed "The Acadian French," wherein he desires further information.

If the Colonial Secretary, who has the credit of editing the *Islander*, had asked from me further information than that contained in the statement I made, and in the evidence I referred to, before the Commissioners, as a delegate from the French settlers, in relation to this people, at the request of the Court, it is probable I would have satisfied him, to the best of my ability, or if he had stated his intention of amusing himself during his leisure hours by preparing an addition to that beautiful and interesting tale to which he refers his readers—"Evangeline" by Longfellow, and that he required a few anecdotes and stories of early Acadian life on this Island to embellish the work, and render it entertaining to the public as well as useful to the French, in imitation of Mrs. Stowe on Slavery, it would have given me pleasure to have afforded it—that is, if he could have assured me it would have been usefully employed; but unfortunately for that unpopular public officer and his colleagues in the Government and their friendly supporters, the middlemen are not a party generally credited with being overburthened with philanthropic views towards the Acadians or other settlers. Entertaining the prevailing opinion, I cannot, therefore, admit the secrets to a person who I regard as an open and avowed enemy of popular rights, no matter on what plea or ground they may be requested.

If the Commissioners, on a reconsideration of the important matter laid before them, require minute information on the subject, they will seek for it in the proper quarter; but if it is out of their power to entertain the grievance complained of, the Acadian French descendants have friends who know where to apply for redress. It is, however, in the meantime, satisfactory to know that the Colonial Secretary is aware of the undeniable charges preferred of oppression made on the French, and the violation of the Treaty ceding this Island to Great Britain, which guaranteed the French settlers quiet and peaceable possession of their farms.

As a Delegate, I take this opportunity to say, that the statements made by the Government in the Legislature, as well as by their organ, not twelve months ago, led the public to believe that the Land Question would be set at rest by Her Majesty's Commissioners; but now we are told that the Commissioners have no power to entertain the question of forfeiture—that they can only settle some slight differences existing between the Proprietors and the Tenantry—a subject wholly distinct from the Land Question.

If the Colonial Secretary can impose this opinion on the public in opposition to the views advanced by the Commissioners respecting their authority to settle all differences in relation to the Land Question, it will relieve him and the Government from the opprobrium they lie under of sacrificing the public interests to private ends.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

BENJAMIN DAVIES.

Dec. 20, 1860.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., December 24, 1860.

DEFENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT CLERKS.

CHAPTER I.

THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NOTHING can more clearly show the utterly helpless state into which the Government of this Island has fallen than the manner in which their policy and measures are defended, and the character of the individuals who offer the defence. There are two papers published in this City avowedly devoted to the service of the Administration—the *Islander* and *Monitor*. The first is published by the Queen's Printer, and edited by the Chief Clerk of the Executive Council; the second is published by a man—or one who passes under the name of a "man," called Cooper, who was last year thrust into a Clerkship of the Legislative Council, to the disgrace of that body, to enable him to pay for the press and types subscribed for by two or three Charlottetown merchants, by means of which he develops, from week to week, the inherent depravity of his disposition, and the weakness of the Government that are forced to lean upon such a rotten prop. The *Islander*—avoiding, for the most part, the personal scurrility which distinguishes its coadjutor—labours to bind the proprietary party to the Government, showing how insincere are the pretensions by which its masters have attempted to gain the confidence of the tenantry. The publisher of the *Monitor*—though an arrant hypocrite in religion—has not tact enough to simulate the character of a gentleman, nor moral energy sufficient to repress the outpourings of a depraved heart,—but suffers his paper to become a sewer for the ruffianism that surges and bubbles through the ranks of his partizans. We cannot, therefore, be surprised to see the name of a convicted, imprisoned, and unhanged felon on the roll of his contributors, or observe his columns filled with the puerilities of a fop, who perhaps only wants the opportunity and the ingenuity to be as great a rascal as Amos himself, but who is scarcely less despised in the community.

We hope the Lieut. Governor will not be displeased at reading this description of some of the servants and supporters of his Administration. His Excellency, we believe, is a gentleman by birth and education, to say nothing of his high position; and we sincerely hope that he is ignorant of the real character of the individuals to whom he has given commissions; but so soon as His Excellency is made aware of their character, it will be for him to say whether the public service shall be longer disgraced by keeping them in office. We shall first deal, as the title to this chapter denotes, with the Clerk to the Legislative Council.

In the *Monitor* of the 24th ult., a letter was published over the signature of "a Caledonian," in which we, and other members of the Opposition, were assailed in the most ruffianly manner. There was no provocation given for this attack. Our principles or opinions were not made the subject of discussion; but we were denounced as reckless adventurers, hungry office-seekers, seditious demagogues, and victims of abject poverty. This violent abuse was written by the junior Clerk in His Excellency's Executive Council—was published by the Clerk of the Legislative Council; and in two weeks after, the junior Clerk appeared with a letter over his own proper name, tacitly avowing the authorship of his anonymous scurrility, and adding to the abuse which it contained. In our reply to this attack we showed that several of the principal office-holders in his Excellency's Government have nothing themselves to boast of, on the score of wealth, respectability or influence; and we gave strong reasons why the Clerk of the Legislative Council should, above all others, observe some decent reticence on the subjects adverted to. Incapable of profiting by the rebuke administered to him, and unable to deny any one of our allegations, the Clerk of the Legislative Council makes, in the *Monitor* of the 12th inst., the most false and malicious charges, of a purely private nature, against ourselves. Let us examine them.

1st. Cooper states that previous to the last election we obtained a loan of £200 from a gentleman in this City, and that we "absconded" to the United States last year, with money borrowed in another quarter, without refunding the £200. This is a reckless and contemptible lie. Previous to the last election we *borrowed* money from no gentleman in Charlottetown, and consequently could not have evaded such a debt by runing away. It is true we went to the United States last year, and the whole Town knew we were going before we set out; but we returned in less than three weeks, after a pleasant cruise; and if any gentleman had an unsatisfied claim against us for "£200," we presume he could have enforced it since. But suppose this story had been true, what is it to Cooper or the public how we obtain our money, so as we obtain it honestly? If we choose to borrow, and give good security for our loans, we do only that which is done every day all over the world by princes, merchants and peasants, by incorporated Societies and banking institutions—by every one, in fact, who wants money, and can get it on security. If we should *sell* real estate property at any time, or borrow a few hundred pounds on the security of it, we cannot see that we are bound to inform J. B. Cooper of the fact; and it only displays the inherent meanness of the fellow to make any allusion to such a transaction. Cooper, moreover, says: "We are also credibly informed that he (Mr. Whelan) has since refused to pay the aggrieved party either principal or interest, and returns nothing but insolence and abuse whenever application is made for either the one or the other." Having shown that the first part of the story is a lie, this part is also one. We challenge the hypocritical slanderer to produce the name of the gentleman who is said to have been "abused" by us, and to give even the shadow of proof for his base assertions.