

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—

In the *Islander* of the 23d March, I noticed a scurrilous communication over the name of "Ben Rogers," wherein he makes statements against me which he is wholly incapable to prove. I should not wish to intrude on your valuable time and space, if people knew who the trifling character is, that so wantonly attacked me; but, in order that your readers may know something of the fellow, I will give a brief outline of him. Ben Rogers is but a boy yet, full of self-conceit, and only a few years ago he left his father's blacksmith shop, and engaged in a grog shop, where he soon availed himself of the cant phrases common to such a place. His present situation is in a similar shop, where we now behold him as the mouthpiece and tool of a rejected Tory faction. He endeavours to make a flourish about my appointment to the Commission of the Peace, and prates about my standing in the community; but neither Ben Rogers nor the party of which he is but an understrapper, made any mention of certain appointments to the Commission of the Peace last winter, under the Tory administration. I know some J. P.'s, of Tory appointing, who can scarcely sign their names in a legible manner; but forsooth! because I was appointed instead of some of the disappointed opposition office-seekers, the most trifling fault is at once hurled against me, and Ben allows himself to become a scribbler to a rejected and disappointed partizan clique. Allusion is made to the nomination of candidates at St. Eleanor's. Ben must understand that the Sheriff, as he states, did not preside, but his Deputy. He talks of my availing myself of Acts of Parliament, but he is surely beside himself. I did not at any time think of availing myself of the privilege of using such at the nomination. I saw the determined effort made by the Tory party to put the Liberals down. I further observed that any person making the least remark against the Tories would be at once hooted at, and any person speaking for them said all they pleased without interruption. A young man, a schoolmaster from Indian River, attempted to offer a few remarks, but he was at once silenced by the hootings of this opposition club. I did not think that this was fair dealing. So I came forward, on the floor of the Court House, and made the following remarks:—"Mr. Sheriff, I have observed in the proceedings at this meeting for some time past that whenever a person in the opposition offer any remarks, whether on the floor or on the stand, they are listened to attentively; but the reverse is the case whenever a Liberal attempts to speak. I wish that all persons having opinions to offer will be heard in their turn." At the close of the last sentence, the Deputy became indignant, and vowed I was a disturber of the peace. I declared the contrary and protested against such a charge. He at once ordered a constable to put me out of the Court House; but that functionary understood his business better than the Deputy, and did not do so, knowing I was not at fault. Ben states that I "mounted the platform," that "the Sheriff put me down," and that "I was running from tavern to tavern cursing like a fiend," &c., all of which assertions are utterly false, and only worthy of the base mind from which they emanated. With regard to delivering letters to Tories at the Post Office, his foul assertions are equally untrue. I can only assure him that if he were worth my particular notice, I would bring him before a tribunal, where he would be required to prove his false and scandalous statements against me; but on a second consideration I must refrain from so doing, knowing that I cannot expect better from the conceited fool. The ignoramus also tries to cast a slur on "Coles & Co." respecting me; but Messrs. Coles & Co. do not care the value of a straw for all he can squib in the *Islander* from January to December; he is far beneath their notice; and they will only view him with contempt. I am now done with the individual yclept "Ben Rogers." I do not intend to answer any more of his filthy statements, nor would I now only in order to rebut his slanderous assertions.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

P. M. POWER.

Summerside, March 27, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—

We feel it a duty devolving on us to give an account of the drifting away of the Ice Boat on the 10th instant, and of our proceedings whilst in the Gulf; and in the mean time to express our thanks to the people of Nova Scotia for their kindness to us.

We left Cape Tormentine on Saturday, the 10th instant, about eight o'clock in the morning—the crew being Samuel McRae, master, William McRae, Benjamin Robinson and Duncan Cameron—and Doctor Johnston, Doctor Hazard and Mr. Joseph Wier, as passengers—with the Colonial Mails—for P. E. Island. The morning was fine, the wind blowing gently from the south west. However, shortly after putting out there was appearance of a shower of snow, we accordingly slackened our pace, in order that we might not get too far off, and could easily put back again if it continued. It was merely a shower, the cloud passed over, the sun shone, giving every evidence of a fine day, and we pressed on, all being pleased for starting. The travelling was uncommonly heavy, owing to the depth of the snow and broken up ice, which greatly retarded our progress. Between eleven and twelve o'clock, we being then about mid Gulf, the wind veered round to the north east, blowing pretty fresh and indicating a storm; but we concluded it would not come on before night, which would give us sufficient time to reach the Island, and which we would have succeeded in doing had we not been prevented by the lolly on the Island shore. About five o'clock we reached within a mile and a half of Carleton Point, and could see the land; but the storm grew so violent and the lolly lay so deep that we could not possibly force the boat through it. After repeated attempts, and finding all our efforts unavailing, we were forced to put back, and drawing the boat on to a small field of ice, turned her up to form shelter from the storm and cold, deeming it more prudent to remain where we were all night—hoping that it might be calm in the morning, when we would be enabled to make the Island without difficulty—than to retrace our steps to Cape Tormentine, which would have been utterly impossible for us to do. We spent the night very uncomfortable, being wet, cold and fatigued. The field of ice on which we were stationed was kept constantly in motion by the heaving of the sea, consequently we durst not sleep for fear it might break up, and we were unconsciously precipitated into the deep. Sunday morning we discovered that we had drifted about a mile further off, somewhat to the eastward. The small stock of provisions which we had brought with us having been exhausted the previous day, Doctor Johnston shared out a pound of flaxseed which Doctor Hazard happened to have in his trunk, some of which we ate in the morning and the remainder through the day. We then made preparations and started for the Island. We got the boat worked through the lolly with considerable difficulty, but had no sooner arrived at the open water than the wind arose of a sudden to a gale, accompanied with sleet, and being in danger of swamping the boat we were obliged to put back. In this manner we made several fruitless attempts during the forenoon, and meanwhile we were drifting rapidly to the eastward. We then started into the Gulf in search of a larger field of ice, but finding the travelling so extremely bad, we were forced to return to the field we had just quitted, which was by this

time reduced to the area of half an acre. Again we turned up our boat for shelter, the day being far spent. Doctor Johnston took his bible and read two chapters therefrom suitable to our present circumstances, and delivered a very beautiful and appropriate exhortation, the old gentleman (Mr. Wier) engaging in prayer. All was solemn and our prospect gloomy. Still we did not relinquish the hope of yet getting to land. Our condition, however, was very precarious, in consequence of the smallness of our field of ice, and it kept continually breaking up, sometimes within a short distance of us. We banked the boat with snow, made the passengers as comfortable as possible, and prepared to spend another miserable night. This night we had much to do to keep the passengers from sleeping. Monday morning at length arrived. We perceived that we had been driven to the eastward of St. Peter's Island, nearly mid-Gulf. And finding that it was principally open water, and the wind blowing violently, it appeared utterly impracticable for us to reach the Island. We, therefore, mutually agreed, as the 1st alternative, to lighten the boat by heaving out all the baggage, except the mails and most valuable clothes, and endeavour to make the Main Land. We accordingly did so, and started. Doctor Hazard appeared very much chilled and cast down. However, we done our utmost to cheer and encourage him, so after proceeding a little further he felt better. The frost of the previous night helped the travelling considerably, which enabled us to make pretty good progress, although having to draw Mr. Wier, who was much exhausted. About eleven o'clock we put Mr. Hazard, who had become unable to walk, into the boat likewise, and wrapped him up in all the clothes we could obtain, in order to prevent him from getting frozen. We toiled on thus till twelve o'clock, when the cravings of nature becoming more oppressive, and being extremely fatigued, we were driven to the extremity of killing a small spaniel which Mr. Wier fortunately had with him. All parboiled it raw, and drank its blood, with the exception of Cameron and Robinson, who ate merely a mouthful, which greatly strengthened us. At dark, it pains us to relate, poor Mr. Hazard died of cold and exhaustion. This was a very appalling stroke to us, and sorrow was manifest in every countenance. We paid every attention that was attainable to his remains, and prosecuted our painful journey towards the shore, where we arrived next morning about sunrise, thankful to Divine Providence for having preserved our lives from the dangers to which we had been exposed. We landed at Fox Harbor, about five miles from Wallace, but unfortunately there was no dwelling house within two miles of us. Cameron, W. McRae and Dr. Johnston started in quest of assistance, and succeeded in reaching Mr. Nicholson's; gave the alarm; and they came promptly and carried us all to their dwelling, where we were treated with all the kindness and attention our languishing condition required. The mails were kindly forwarded to the Cape by Mr. Huestis, Postmaster at Wallace. We can never forget the kindness and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, A. McFarlane, Esq., Rev. Mr. Munroe and Lady, a clergyman of the Church of England, whose name we did not learn, and Dr. Mitchell. Mr. Wier's feet and hands were a good deal injured with the frost, and his body much chilled. Dr. Johnston's feet were also injured, but his body and hands are safe. Our highest praise and respect is due to Dr. Johnston for his perseverance, ability and skill. Regardless of cold and exhaustion, he braved it out to the last; and we had no sooner arrived at the house, although he was in such an exhausted condition, than he gave useful directions how to draw the frost out of our feet, and the manner in which to dress them. Indeed, throughout the whole, he behaved to us with all the affection of a brother, and for which we are truly grateful.

THE COURIERS.

Augustine Cove, March 28, 1855.

TO MR. GEORGE BEER.

"If ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

You assume in your letter published in the *Islander* newspaper of the 6th instant, that you were alluded to in a recent debate in the House of Assembly, hence your letter appeared. Standing as you do in this community, wisdom should, on your part, have prompted silence, and perhaps she did, but, as in many other instances, you refused to listen to her voice, I envy not the blissful consequences of such ignorance. In your letter you take umbrage at the term "blackguard." Now, although not very expert at definitions, yet I hold that he who violates the truth by word and deed, and publishes his own infamy to the world, should not be too fastidious. A self-proclaimed spotted—I might almost say variegated—man should not be so dreadfully offended at a single word, even if that word was designed to apply to himself. Walker says that a blackguard is a dirty fellow.—George, your actions have not been clean. I am not about to follow you through your lengthened epistle, but shall touch only on a few of your remarks. You accuse Mr. Coles of cowardice in "taking advantage of you when you had no means of defence." Do you not remember the time when a faction, using a filthy tool for an infamous purpose, employed you as their cat's-paw to crush and ruin a public officer who had fully and faithfully discharged his public trusts, and complied with all the requirements of the law, and whose improvements on the public roads will remain long after your self-dishonored head shall lie harmless in the grave? You talk of measuring swords! Why man, your sword would be like your pistol on a recent occasion on Queen Square—invisible. Then comes honor and elevation! Time was when a man who would alter a document in his own favor, was honored by being brought before the public with a halberd about his neck and Jack Ketch at his heels; and, as to elevation, his head was stuck upon a pole and elevated in some conspicuous place. George Beer, talk of honor.—Bah! Bah! Patrick Kearney's name is introduced. You are, as usual, wrong, for Kearney did not offer at the last election. Who spread the terror of Mr. Kearney's name, with those of the same faith, more than you and your party, inasmuch that the inhabitants of Little York and the adjacent settlements were afraid to retire to rest lest their houses would be burned and their throats cut, according to Dr. Eran's elegant phraseology—and were not you and your own bigotted supporters loudest in your complaints against Mr. Kearney as a commissioner? Mr. Haviland is also mentioned. If Mr. Coles borrowed money from Mr. H., he had ample interest, and principal also, at a very brief notice. But who rose at a meeting of the Agricultural Committee and indignantly ordered you out of the room for conduct which in some places would place you in a felon's cell? Did not Messrs. Haviland, Holl and others, and would they allow you to sit with them since? You say Mr. Coles was wanting in gratitude to Mr. H. Do you talk of gratitude? Who set you on your legs, by furnishing you with £250 worth of fat cattle, and obtained no security for the Royalty Lot you were to give him in return until you went to England? Did not Mr. Coles, and was not that security eventually obtained by a threat? You advanced no money on it, but had Mr. Coles' stock to work upon—"ingratitude is worse than witchcraft." The understrappers at Downing Street, you talk of, are many of them Briton's best sons—men of the highest order of intellect, finished education and unsullied honour, who, if your morals were as they should be, might condescend to speak to you if you were forced into their company, but must, of necessity, under present circumstances, regard your touch fully as polluting as the patrid shoulder pork hams you sold Mr. Pope, at an exorbitant price, for his then contemplated Australian voyage.

I am, yours,

TOM JONES.

April 9, 1855.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., APRIL 16, 1855.

EXAMINER OFFICE, TUESDAY, 2 P. M.

The long Session of 1854-55 is at length brought to a close. The Speech of the Lieutenant Governor, which we give below—and for the purpose of procuring which we have delayed the publication of our paper—speaks in the very highest terms of the legislation by which that Session has been distinguished. It may be said that the speech is the speech of the Government, and therefore it is as if the majority were merely praising themselves. This seems to be quite a popular fiction. We believe that in all the Colonies the Governors write their own speeches—in this Colony the Governors have done so, no matter what party happened to be in power; nevertheless, under the present system of Government, the members of the Executive Council cheerfully take the responsibility of any part of the gubernatorial speech which may affect the general welfare. Governors, however, as well as other people, have their opinions upon public matters, and the best opportunities they can have for expressing them, are, when they are opening or closing the Houses of Legislature. Now, the Speech which has just been delivered to our little Parliament, we have reason to believe, is the production of the Queen's Representative in this Island, and of him alone; and we are sure that his constitutional advisers have no reason to withhold from it their ready assent.

Some of the measures which have been passed into law, are indeed, very important ones, and are not unworthy of the high recognition which they have received from His Excellency. It is gratifying to reflect, too, that in carrying out the measures to which we allude—especially the Free Trade Treaty Act, the Charlottetown Incorporation Act, and the Bank Act—both parties cordially united, and laboured in common to make them as perfect as they could be made. Indeed, it is but justice to say that never within our remembrance has a better understanding prevailed in the House of Assembly between the Government party and their opponents, and consequently there has been far less acrimony in debate than was customary in former years. Of the minority of the present House, some gentlemen placed the Government under great obligations for a manly and generous support to measures which affected the standing and credit of the Administration.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

At two o'clock to-day, Tuesday, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by his aides-de-camp, came down to the Council Chamber, and in the presence of the two houses of Legislature, and a large and respectable body of citizens, gave his assent to a very considerable number of Bills passed during the Session, and brought the Legislative proceedings of the year to a close with the following

SPEECH.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The assiduity with which you have proceeded with the public business enables me to release you from your legislative labors.

I cannot too emphatically express my approval of your proceedings in reference to the attempt that has been made to throw doubt upon the validity of the titles to landed property in this Island, by endeavouring to establish a Court of Escheat, with the consequent revival of a mischievous agitation, eminently calculated to injure the honest and industrious tenantry.

The reiterated decisions of Her Majesty's Government are conclusive against any enactment of that nature, and concurring, as I do most fully, in the wisdom and justice of those decisions, I am bound by every sentiment of duty to discourage the slightest expectation of a departure from them. I would fain hope that the ability and energy which have been exerted in encouraging fallacious hopes among a portion of the people, in whose welfare I have ever taken a deep interest, may in future receive practical application for their benefit and contentment.

The active measures which the Government have in progress, under the Land Purchase Bill, require only the co-operation of the parties for whose benefit they have been undertaken, to secure to the Tenantry an amount of advantage which they never could derive from the agitation to which I have referred, even if it were possible that such a course could be successfully adopted.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I thank you in Her Majesty's name for the supplies which you have voted for the public service.

The liberal addition you have made to former appropriations for the Lunatic Asylum will, I trust, be found sufficient to effect the most necessary improvements in that Institution, and besides affording increased accommodation, to give greater facilities for the proper treatment of its afflicted inmates.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Revenue of the past year has exceeded all previous precedent, and the prices of agricultural produce of all sorts have been highly remunerative, which afford gratifying indications of the progressive prosperity of the Colony.

For some months past, however, extensive embarrassment in the Commercial world has been experienced, from the effects of which this Island has not been wholly exempted, and the state of the markets for shipping has, for the present, much checked that branch of our Commercial enterprise.

From these circumstances it may reasonably be inferred that the increase of the Revenue may not be maintained in the current year, but the surplus on the past year will, I trust, be found adequate to meet any diminution, if such should occur, until the effects of this crisis, which are already subsiding, shall have been wholly effaced by the restoration of commercial prosperity.

Among the important measures of this Session the "Act to Incorporate Charlottetown" stands conspicuous.

This remedy has long been demanded by the neglected state of the Town, and I trust that the municipal functions will be discharged in such a spirit, as to unite the exertions of all classes in the development of the natural advantages which the situation of this City presents.

I have recently received from the Secretary of State the Imperial Act for carrying the Fisheries and Reciprocity Treaty into effect, and having issued the proclamation thereby required, this much desired measure is now in force, and will, I trust, prove a source of increasing prosperity to the people of this Island.

I took the earliest opportunity of announcing to Her Majesty's Government your liberal contribution of £2000 to the Patriotic Fund, and that farther subscriptions for the same patriotic and benevolent purpose were in progress throughout the Island, and I have now the gratification of being enabled to inform you, as the reply of the Secretary of State assures me, "that the generous sympathy evinced by Her Majesty's subjects in Prince Edward Island with the sufferers by the War in which England is engaged, has afforded Her Majesty the most sincere satisfaction, and will be warmly appreciated by all classes of Her Majesty's subjects."

I feel assured that you cordially unite with me in fervently hoping that an honorable and lasting peace may be secured, by the speedy attainment of the righteous objects for which our beloved Sovereign and Her Allies are contending.

The patriotism and moderation which you have displayed in the discharge of your Legislative duties leave me no room to doubt, that on your return to your homes you will second my endeavours to soften and obliterate the traces of past political conflicts, and thus aid in directing the undivided attention of an eminently loyal and well-disposed people to the full appreciation of the many advantages which a beneficent Providence has bestowed upon Prince Edward Island.

THE WINTER MAILS.

We invite the attention of our readers to the statement which appears in another column from the parties who are engaged in carrying the winter Mails across the Northumberland Strait, in reference to the fatal casualty which recently happened in that quarter. It will be seen that the statement in no essential respect conflicts with that which was given by a gentleman at Wallace in a letter to Mr. Palmer, and which went the round of all the Island papers, testifying, in the clearest manner, to the extraordinary exertions made by the crew of the boat, as was gathered from the evidence of the passengers themselves, in order to effect a safe and speedy landing.

With his reckless and customary malignity, the editor of the *Islander* has endeavoured, in a recent article, to destroy the character of Messrs. M-Rae & Muttart, and to withdraw from them the confidence of the travelling community, by representing them as inexperienced and totally incompetent to discharge the difficult duties confided to them. Their want of experience, we are told, was manifested in their attempting to force a passage across the Strait during the prevalence of an easterly wind, because, says the *Islander*, "in the winter an easterly wind is always of short duration; and no man of judgment sound enough to be entrusted with so weighty a charge as mail carrier across a peculiarly dangerous strait would attempt the passage until it ceased to prevail. This, we have been informed, was the uniform practice of the Messrs. Irving." "It is said," continues the *Islander*, "we know not how truly, that M-Rae's boat left the opposite shore, on the fatal trip, during an easterly wind. If it did, it is clear that experience is thrown away on such a man, and that he is entirely too negligent for so important a trust." Without all appreciating the force or truth of the observation about the usual duration of an easterly wind in this country, and the alleged folly of attempting a passage across the strait during its prevalence, we come at once to the point, and that is: when M-Rae's boat commenced its perilous passage a south-westerly, and not an easterly wind, prevailed. The weather appears to have been remarkably fine at the commencement of the trip, as we learn from the statements elsewhere published—the sun shone out in all its splendour, giving promise of a fine day, and the crew and passengers were pleased to think they had commenced their painful journey in such fine weather. The charge of negligence, therefore, in reference to the matter of an easterly wind, entirely falls to the ground.

We have no wish to detract from the merits of the Messrs. Irving. We know them well, and have a very high respect for them, and we should have been glad to have seen them continued in the service, if no injustice had been done to the public or to individuals. But we cannot, for the life of us, understand why they should be considered the only persons in the Island capable of carrying the Mails. Of Messrs. M-Rae & Muttart we have no personal knowledge—we doubt if we ever heard of them before their names became connected with the Mail service; but we have heard from intelligent persons who know them well, that they are shrewd, active, industrious, and well acquainted with the duties they have undertaken to discharge. The men, too, under their control—and some of whom were in the boat on the occasion referred to—were the very men who were employed by the Messrs. Irving when they had the contract. If experience, then, in the knowledge of managing an Ice Boat, could have prevented its great detention in the ice and lolly, and the consequent suffering lately experienced, we should not now have to deplore the casualty that occurred.

But it was evidently not so much from a desire to manifest condescence with the relatives of young Mr. Hazard, or to praise the Messrs. Irving and censure their successors, that induced the malignant editor of the *Islander* to make the melancholy event under consideration the subject of editorial comment. Rankling hatred of the Government was what alone induced him to write on this subject. He imagines he may make a little political capital out of the disaster, in the same way that he attempted to turn the loss of the "Fairy Queen" to his vile party purposes. He says the Government are to blame for not having continued the Irvings; and that Mr. Lord, a member of the Government, "by the dint of the most desperate falsehoods, obtained a transfer of the contract from Irving to M-Rae."

The first position is altogether untenable—and the assertion about Mr. Lord is a downright falsehood. The Government could not have acted in any other way than they did in this matter. It was their duty to advertise for tenders for the performance of the mail service. They did so. The Irvings tendered considerably higher than any others. How could their tender have been accepted without rendering the proceeding of asking for tenders at all, a mockery and delusion, and doing substantial injustice to the other parties who tendered? Well, the lowest tender was that of Mr. Bell and Mr. James Irving—not one of the Irvings who formerly conducted the service—and those parties were notified that their tender was accepted. After some little delay, however, Mr. Bell, who was the principal party to the contemplated contract, as having the experience and means requisite to the proper management of the service—informed the Government, through his friend Mr. Lord, that circumstances had arisen which would warrant his taking the contract. What were the Government to do in this matter? Should they have said to Mr. James Irving—"You had better take all the responsibility, which you were incompetent in the first instance to assume?" This might have been done, if Bell's intended partner had been Philips Irving or Arthur Irving; but the James Irving who signed the tender with Bell, is represented as quite a young man, having little or no experience, and otherwise not qualified by himself for the performance of the service. But even then it would not have been an act of strict justice to the other parties who tendered, if Bell's partner got the preference. The tender of Bell & Irving became null and void as soon as the first of these parties withdrew, as effectually as it would be if both abandoned it together; and the Government had no alternative but to take the next lowest tender—that happened to be McRae's and Muttart's. Notwithstanding the melancholy casualty in the Strait, they have, we understand, given general satisfaction, and have made their trips across with fully as much regularity as ever distinguished their predecessors.

This subject was brought to the notice of the House of Assembly a few days since by Mr. Lord, on his presenting a petition from McRae & Muttart for a grant of money to build a boat, as contrary to their expectations, the Messrs. Irving refused to give them up the boat built a short time since at the public expense. He gave a full and satisfactory explanation of the little he had to do in conveying Mr. Bell's wishes to the Government, and complained of the foul and malignant libel in which he was held up as being accessory to the death of young Hazard. His speech will be given in our next issue—it will carry conviction to the minds of all parties, that he is wholly undeserving of the least cen-