

on the seaboard, such as Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, they begin to apprehend that the interior will barely afford sufficient for their own consumption, and hence flour and pork have now attained what may be considered famine prices.

In the face of such a formidable danger, the duty of all men in this Province, who have an opportunity of doing so, is to sow and plant in every available spot and by every available means. Labor, which at present has no prospect of being made profitable in any other pursuit, if laid out judiciously in farming, will not only avert the threatened scarcity, but in all probability will afford a better chance for profit than in any other way it can be expended.

We see that it is the deliberate opinion of all well-informed writers on food statistics, that as there will be no surplus this year of former crops, famine will only be averted over the world by universal good crops for this season, and that low or even average prices cannot be expected until after a succession of good crops.

We trust, therefore, that our farmers will consider that this is more than a mere question of profit and money,—it is one of life and well-being to all mankind.—St. John, N. B. Courier.

RUMOR OF A WAR WITH SPAIN.

The New York Evening Post contains the following announcement, which would be very startling were it otherwise than an "assurance" or a "rumor."

"We are assured that a prominent merchant in Louisville, Ky., an intimate friend of the Secretary of the Treasury, has advised his correspondents of the receipt of letters from a high source at Washington, assuring him that there will be a war between the United States and Spain within sixty or ninety days; that the Cabinet was divided, but that the war party would prevail, and advising him to arrange his business, which is very extensive, as speedily as possible."

It is "understood" that the high authority in Washington is Mr. Guthrie.

We are further informed that an officer of the United States Army, who states that he was consulted on the project referred to, has said that:

"While the difficulties with Spain were most promising of trouble, under the Soule regime, our government quietly concentrated several thousand troops in Florida, convenient for embarkation, and actually loaded one or two sailing vessels with heavy guns and ammunition, and had them ready near at hand. The port in Cuba was selected at which they were to land.

"The plan was, with the regulars, to run across to this fort, which could be done in a few hours, surprise and seize it, throw up earthworks with all speed to defend the position by land, with a fleet sufficient to keep the port open. Thus situated they were to call for volunteers, and ten to fifteen thousand would arrive in a week, self-armed, and of the first quality. They were then to move with all dispatch upon the principal points of the island. Quitman and some others were in the secret. This was the programme.

"Such was the position of affairs when the rumor came up that the cabinet had changed its policy, and henceforth was to be pacific."—Boston Evening Traveller.

INTERESTING FROM RUSSIA.

[From a Saint Petersburg Letter.]

It was observed the other day, by a person well informed as to passing events, "If we preserve Sebastopol and the fleet in the Black Sea, peace will be made at Vienna." In fact, every one here believes that Prince Gortschakoff is invested with very extensive powers on all the points to be submitted to the discussion of the conference except on this keystone of all, which is to remain intact. No difficulty will even be made at dividing the supremacy in the Black Sea; but it is wished in the eyes of Russia to preserve in appearance the preponderance which she has hitherto had in that quarter. Russian diplomatists say, "If the passage of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus be made free, it will be so much gained, and if we cannot establish ourselves at the entrance of the Black Sea, we shall at least avail ourselves of the free circulation allowed to all; and the alliance of the two naval powers of the West is not eternal." This reasoning, in a Russian point of view, is very simple. If you ask who is to pay the expense of the war, it is answered, with surprising *simplicity*, "Each will pay his own."

The Western Powers, it is moreover said here, seeing that the feelings of the Greek-Slavonian population of Turkey are now more than ever in favor of Russia, and that the state of those populations, who look on her as their only protectress, imperiously calls for changes, will endeavor to realize ameliorations, and will give the necessary stipulations a form acceptable to Russia. Never, it is said, will the Russian cabinet give up the present war, unless it can say to the people, "We have not failed in our sacred mission of protecting our co-religionists; on the contrary, we have extended that protection by sharing it with the other powers."

In the meantime, the preparations for war go on without cessation; the Emperor has reviewed the battalions of reserve: that is to say, the 5th and 6th battalions of the regiments of grenadiers, who have since commenced their march. In time of war, every regiment has four batteries on a complete war footing, the 5th and 6th form the reserve, and the 7th and 8th the depot. The accounts which reach us from the provinces state that the formation of the cohorts for the defence of the empire continues.

There are, however, no more nominations of commandants now made, because the nobles do not wish to select any but those of the old Russian party. The exhibitions of agricultural productions will not take place this year in the provinces, which are declared in a state of war. The commander of the 31 corps of reserve of the active army has proceeded to Warsaw, in order to have a conference with Prince Paskevitch.

THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN RAILWAY.—We understand that the directors of the railway have received a communication from Messrs. Jackson & Co., stating that in consequence of certain doings of the directors, and of the Executive Government of this Province, they feel that there are sufficient grounds for abandoning their contract in this Province. It is not stated that they will do so, neither is it stated that they intend proceeding with the works at present. In the absence of any official announcement on this important subject (to which the public are clearly entitled), we can only say that we fear Messrs. Jackson & Co. have strong grounds for declining to proceed with their contract without incurring the slightest discredit.—New Brunswick.

MORE FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES.—The people of Massachusetts seem resolved to prevent as far as possible the "foreign element" from having any part or lot in public affairs. In the Legislature of that State last week the following articles of amendment to the constitution were ordered to a third reading, unanimously:

"No person owing allegiance to any foreign prince, power, or potentate, shall be eligible to any office under the constitution of this commonwealth.

"No person shall hereafter be admitted to the right of suffrage in this commonwealth who is unable to read and write."

THE FISHERIES OF MARBLEHEAD.—The People's Advocate says:—"We shall send to the Banks this year about double the number that was sent in 1847, (the year following the great gale); the business has again won the confidence of the

public as a promising source of wealth and prosperity to the town. Seven vessels will be added to the fleet this year, most of them being new. We have been informed that some vessels stocked from six to eight thousand dollars a year; and if this be true, together with the fact that no lives were lost, it is very gratifying to those who desire the prosperity of our citizens and the town."

LUMBER IN CANADA.—The Ottawa Citizen says:—"We understand that the enterprising proprietors of one of our great mill establishments here have contracted for 1,000,000 feet of lumber at fair paying prices, to be delivered during the ensuing summer. This lumber will pass over the Bytown and Prescott Railway for the St. Lawrence."

PREPARATIONS FOR DOING THE NEW LIQUOR LAW.—New York, April 15.—The leading hotel proprietors, importers and wholesale liquor dealers, held a meeting at the Astor House last night, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means to nullify the liquor law recently passed by the New York Legislature. It was decided to raise a fund to fee the most eminent lawyers in the city, in order to obtain their opinion as to the constitutionality of the law. Over \$8000 were subscribed.

FROM JAMAICA.—We have received copies of the Kingston Morning Journal up to the 11th instant, in answer to the censures of the Barbados Liberal, for the little favor with which the Patriotic Fund was received by all classes in Jamaica, the Journal says:—"The inhabitants of Jamaica are steeped in poverty—a large portion, pinched by want, are steeped in misery,—thousands are crying for assistance and food; and in several districts distant from market places, hundreds have to subsist upon young bamboos, and to dig up and clutch any wild root or other spontaneous production, to support life. This may appear exaggerated, but nevertheless, it is a true picture."

The Legislature was prorogued on the 10th. The Governor in his speech stated that there is now every reason to hope the income of the country will equal the expenditure; and that with this step towards the removal of financial embarrassments, the future prospects of the island were improving.

THE PAST WINTER.

During the mild and bright days which are now occasionally vouchsafed to us, we catch the aroma of approaching Spring. We seem to detect it in the atmosphere and to realize it in every aspect of nature. And although "The birds sit not yet on the spray,"

"The winter is over and gone."

Let us then say a word or two in its memory. It has been in some respects a hard season. Prices of the necessities of life have ranged exceedingly high, and trade has been unprecedentedly dull. Consequently a habit of economy has been imposed upon all classes of society. As a result of the stagnation of business, and the crisis through which the financial world has passed, great numbers of persons in large cities have been out of employment. From high prices and no work have arisen popular discontents and organized meetings to demand relief. Soup-houses have been required "for sweet charity's sake" in most large places; and the demands upon benevolent societies everywhere have been larger than usual.

With respect to the severity of the weather, it may be said, that although we have experienced for a week or two an intense degree of cold, such as has not occurred before for many years, yet upon the whole the season has been open and moderate. The quantity of snow has been small.

Abroad, in Europe, the state of things has been similar, and superadded thereto the horrors of war. The exorbitant prices and check of trade in England resulted lately in the clamors and riots for bread in Liverpool and London. They have had also a spell of intense cold weather in England. The Thames has been frozen over, and so extraordinary is this event there, that the Londoners seem to have been beside themselves with joy on the occasion. The Pictorial Journals come to us embellished with wood-cuts of the frozen Thames (so wonderful to cockneys) and of mishaps and adventures in the icy streets of "the world's capital."

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—As the Sons of Temperance in Charlottetown felt indignant at the opinion expressed by the Hon. Mr. Coles, in the House of Assembly, in the course of the debate on the Maine Liquor Law, Petition, in the "Sons" in the United States being in some way connected with the Know-Nothings; and as they made that expression of opinion the subject of an address to the Lieut. Governor, in which address Mr. Coles is charged with having asserted what is "false"—several Ministers of the Gospel being among those who prefer the charge,—I beg, therefore, to refer those gentlemen and the Sons of Temperance to the following quotations from late American papers, touching the Nunnery and Convents Investigation, which was conducted by a Committee of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, all of whom were prominent Know-Nothings, and the majority of them Sons of Temperance or supporters of the Maine Liquor Law. From these quotations it will be seen whether or not Mr. Coles was wrong in the opinion he expressed.

Yours, &c., FAIR PLAY.

"HOW THE KNOW-NOTHINGS PROCEED."

"The New York Commercial Advertiser says—that the Massachusetts Nunnery Committee 'merits, and will receive, the condemnation of every Protestant citizen of the United States, inasmuch as it has, so far as any individual or body of men can do so, degraded Protestantism in the eyes of the world.'"

"THE NUNNERY INVESTIGATION.—UNPARALLELED HYPOCRISY.—The secret is out. There was champagne on the dinner table at Roxbury. Divers members of the committee who were on the stand as witnesses owned up, on being sharply questioned by Mr. Hale, that the Commonwealth was made to stand treat by Mr. William B. May, who testifies that he ordered the dinner which was served up for the committee at the Norfolk House. When it is stated that nearly all the members of this Convent Committee voted for the Maine Law in the House, and that Mr. Wm. B. May, the member from Roxbury, has been noted for his fierce advocacy of that law, both in the Legislature and out, the public will be enabled to form some faint idea of the disgusting hypocrisy of this pious and abstemious Mr. May and his legislative dinner party at the Norfolk House, who made the Commonwealth a party to a breach of one of its own laws,—for the wine was paid for out of the Commonwealth's treasury. Mr. W. May is now fairly entitled to take his place as hero Number Two of the Grand Legislative Inquest on Nunneries.—Boston Chronicle."

"The Lowell Courier, of the 14th April, thus concludes an article in reference to the Nunnery Committee at Lowell: 'If a thorough investigation could be carried on here in Lowell, the affair merely hinted at in the above evidence would be rather likely to prove one of the rarest bits of scandal that has recently leaked out; the 'gentleman from Lowell,' alluded to, and the 'Mrs. Patterson' whom he seems to have

forwarded to a member of the committee at the State's expense, and the preliminary night spent here before making the visit of perhaps half an hour at the school, are detached links in a curious chain, but their connection with the Nunnery Committee may yet transpire. The great questions of the day are: 'Has Mormonism been introduced among our legislative committees? Do our Maine law legislators always drink when the State foots the bill? Who is the 'gentleman from Lowell?' and who is 'Mrs. Patterson?' Is not the speaker right in calling this 'the reform Legislature.'"

"The Worcester Spy, speaking of the champagne at Roxbury, intimates that in Worcester they had gin cocktails and whiskey punch—at the expense of the State, of course."

Oh, ye Sons of Temperance!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In the *Islander* of the 30th ult. the editor of that paper, in commenting on the fatal casualty of the mail boat, states, "the organ publishes a certificate from certain passengers testifying to the superlative abilities and fitness of the new contractors for the duty," and says, "We have since learned these passengers were treated to a dinner by the contractors, and that having thus obtained their good will through their stomachs, like other wild beasts, they, in gratitude for the feed, did not hesitate to certify what bore internal evidence of being false, although calculated to mislead the public in a matter of life and death." Now, Mr. Editor, I feel myself called upon to contradict the above statement, being one of those passengers who presented the address which the Editor of the *Islander* designates a certificate, and did so from motives altogether foreign to the base insinuations of the Editor of the *Islander*. As to the dinner "treat" referred to, which, to say the least of, is a silly base falsehood, and in good keeping with many such effusions observable in the columns of the *Islander*, I shall be ready at any time, if called upon, to certify upon oath that I not only paid the customary fare in cash for my dinner at Mr. Muttart's, but also saw all my fellow passengers do the same; and then leave the public to judge who were actuated by beastly principles, as the Editor of the *Islander* chooses to call it. By giving insertion to the above, you will oblige your obedient servant,

JOHN MCINTYRE.

New London, April 24, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MOSSHIEUR,—I see in zhee *Islander*, of de 20 dis mont, one leetle peese scribble sine, *Voted for Clark*, from Lot 15. Now, Mossheieur, that was done by sum torys bout Saint Leenor, and de fallaw wich done it sheel tell de lak de dev.—I weel jus name fue de mont. Well, dats lie dat Clark he promise de French peep to vote for one Court Steech. De French naver hask for dat, cause deir land all free; well one grosse lie again, dat de Government he send Perry for to tell de peep for not vote for Wech. Well, I believe Perry heel gone once one time dis winter, mais nobody ill see him from Lot 15, and ill naver send no word for vote for nobody. One agin more lie, is de scribler his signatur and his residence, cau e dat bloody tory sheel not live on Lot 15, and sheel naver vote for Clark.

Now, I tell you something bout last Lection at Lot 15. Well, Sur, has dare is only one tory for five mille rounde de plaize, dats de hoos de leetle sherrif ill pick for de pole. Well zhee sherrif eel come with too more big torys from St. Leenor. one upt dem for Wech his man, and tudder for one Clerk of pole, and very poor one too, cause just seven menute and half for to rite one name. Well, after long spell pass leven clock, de tory dell get huppon de pole, and Wech his man ill say, now lector weel sware herry one of de lector today, cause we want to get all de vote we can for Wech first, den we dunt care one straw if we dunt get one for Clark. Well den peep very mad, den some want to tare herry ting done hoos and all. Don zhee leetle sherrif ill took de lection law and ill need for one great spel; well at lass ill begin to took vote. Fust man ill vote for Clark, and sherrif ill say we mus sware you two time ill take more long after one half hour is done wid dat fallaw; well next ill say Wech, den sherrif ill tell Clark his man you better tell me to sware un too, well ill say no heeld not sware anny body. Well sometime great row cause he no go more fast to make zhee peep vote, mais all no use, zhee little sherrif ill say ill always do wat ill lak mong de French and ill do so yet. Well somebody ill say if he Wech he was dare he wont do dat; well sherrif say heeld believe dat, cause was fair man, mais he was not dare den dell do wat dey lak. Bine-by Wech his man ill begin to took sum cake in is pocket, and ill eeve among de peep and say dats sum cake from Wech; if he you vote for him heeld give you plenty, and good dinner at de hoos, and plenty grog too, cause we torys is great fallaw for grog. But sum one he took de cake and ill heave on him and neerly split his faise in too. Very well, Wech his man's name done, and deyl close de pole when no more den half of Clark is men can vote. Ah! if you see all de bad work dey done dat day affreuz. Suppose leetle sherrif very vex cause peep on Lot 15 no vote him one year lass summer. Well peep tell him you good nough for deel, mais no good for member, no use, dont try no more.

Now, Mossheieur, if youl put dat dare in zhee *Examiner*, zeel peese,

ONE MAN ON LOT 15.

April 26, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In reference to the communication of "Aliquis," in *Hazard's Gazette* of Saturday last, I feel it due to the Hon. Col. Secretary to state that he has never, directly or indirectly, interfered with my reports of the debates of the House of Assembly, and that the insinuations and charges of the author are unfounded and false.

I am, Sir,

Your obt. servant,

WILLIAM M. HOWE,

Reporter House of Assembly.

Charlottetown, May 7.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MAY 7, 1855.

THE ACT RELATING TO THE ASSISTANTS IN THE PUBLIC OFFICES.—No Act of the late Session has been met with so much misrepresentation as that of which the title is above given, and the most desperate, but, at the same time, futile efforts have been made to show that under the Act there will be an excess of expenditure for the services formerly rendered by Mr. Haviland, to the amount of £400. In eking out this excess, the enemies of the Government charge it with the £100 voted to the Private Secretary of the Lieut. Governor. They very well know that this item of expenditure has nothing to do with the Secretary's Office, and is only trumped up for the purpose of misleading the public. Again, they charge the Secretary's Office with the £200 pension paid to Mr. Haviland—as another part of the excess above alluded to. But this is improperly charged in the account. It is the only pension now paid, and its provision was deemed, by the Home Government, an indispensable condition to the concession of Responsible Government—one of the fruits of which has been a saving to the Colony of about £1,800, paid under Tory misrule, in the shape of interest on the public debt, now being liquidated. We are

also told that the Clerk of the Council receives £180 under the new arrangement. This is a wilful misrepresentation; that officer receives only £120. We are likewise told that the Assistant Clerk to the Councils receives £60. This is another wilful misrepresentation. That officer receives altogether £100 in consideration of his services as Road Correspondent and Clerk to the Councils. The propriety of separating the Road Correspondent's duties from those of the Colonial Secretary was warmly admitted by gentlemen on the Conservative side of the House as well as on the Liberal side, and the arrangement for their separation, and the salary proposed, were agreed to without any opposition in the Assembly. It is only the misleaders of the public opinion in the Opposition press who are making the outcry about the matter.

As to the Assistant Clerkship to the Councils, the office is not the creation of the Liberal party. It originated with Mr. Holl's Government last summer. Now, with the regard to the expense of carrying on the Police Departments, even if it could be fairly shown that it is greater than it was four or five years ago, the business transacted has increased three fold, which is evident from the fact that the revenue of the country is nearly three times more than it was when Mr. Haviland was in office. Take, for instance, the fees now paid into the Secretary's and Registrar's offices. Why, these amount to £660 a year more than was paid in by Mr. Haviland, and the work in those offices is more regularly and more promptly performed.

The advocates or supporters of the old Tory party should be the last to charge those in power with the sin of extravagance. Have they forgotten, or can they ever forget the disreputable bribe of £500 which they attempted to force on Sir Donald, and which, with thousands of pounds more, have since been appropriated by the Liberals towards educating the youth of the Colony? We might, if necessary, remind them of many other acts of extravagance, but the present unpopularity of that party with the country shows that those acts are too well understood and appreciated.

GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The Legislature of Nova Scotia has been dissolved, and writs issued for a new election, to take place on the 22d instant. The Tories of that Province appear to be in a furious temper at the shortness of the time allowed for canvassing, as they did not seem to calculate on having the election before Summer or Autumn. The Liberals, on the contrary, are in high spirits at their prospects of success. The Leader of the Government, the Hon. William Young, has issued an address to his late constituents, the people of Inverness, in which he ably reviews the measures of the Administration, and meets and refutes the objections urged against it. We make two or three quotations from the address. It appears the Tories of the sister province, like the same gentry here, complain of a small salary being given to the Governor's private Secretary. Mr. Young observes as follows on that point:—

"It has been gravely urged that we ought to have withheld a salary from the Governor's private Secretary; but why should the present Governor, who is deservedly popular, be placed in a worse position than his predecessors, and above all, why should the Government and the Legislature yield to the sudden change of opinion and the factious opposition of one or two disappointed men?"

The Government of Nova Scotia appears to have committed the same sin that the Government of this Colony did, namely, the dismissal from office of Tory Commissioners. We recommend to the attentive perusal of all, the concluding sentence of the following extract in reference to that subject:—

"We were arraigned for displacing a few of the Tory Commissioners of Annapolis, but we have a memorial from the Custos and a large number of the Magistrates and leading men of the county approving of the act, and a Government is not worthy of the name that has not the vigor to protect its friends when they are wronged and insulted."

But here is a nice little bit for Mr. J. J. Fraser, one of the "indignant" people of Saint Eleanor's. A postmaster at Windsor was dismissed from office for opposing the election of the Provincial Secretary. A postmaster at Saint Eleanor's was dismissed for a similar offence. In the former case we have heard of no "indignation meeting" as yet, although the dismissal took place a long while ago; in the latter case, we all know there has been a rebellion on a small scale, which, however, resulted in no further damage than the tarring of houses, and the forcible removal of sign-boards. J. J. Fraser and all his sympathisers proclaim their constitutional right to oppose the Government and at the same time hold office under it. What says the Attorney General of Nova Scotia on that important "constitutional" question? Hear him:—

"The Government were charged, too, with the dismissal of the Postmaster at Windsor, but I do not hesitate to avow that the principle we then acted on we are determined to adhere to as the British rule, and that the subordinate officers of Government who oppose it must be content to resign or to lose their places. When Conservatives we ask 'not their support—we insist only on their neutrality.'"

Let all petty Tory office-holders keep the above extract in remembrance, for the principle it lays down is sure to be carried out in the Government of this Colony as well as in that of Nova Scotia.

REPORTING THE DEBATES OF THE ASSEMBLY.—We complete in this day's issue the publication of the Escheat debate. We regret that the whole of it has not been sooner given to our readers, but for this delay we are not to blame, as we have given publicity to the matter as fast as we could procure it. There are a great many other important debates, the reports of which have not yet reached the printing office, such as, the debate on the Council Bill; on the Incorporation Bill; on Roads, Bridges and Wharfs; on the Bank Bill; on the Winter Mail service; on the Temperance Petition, and on many other subjects which we cannot at present remember. We can scarcely say whether there is any intention to report these debates, as the printer to the Assembly has not received a line of them, or of any other matter, except the conclusion of the Escheat debate, since the prorogation of the House—now a period of three weeks. We doubt whether there would be much use in publishing them at this late day, after the Session, as the public interest which at first attached to them has nearly ceased to be felt. If they are not published, there will be a considerable saving effected. And here it may be proper to correct a statement made by *Hazard's Gazette*, in its issue of the 25th April. That paper said:—"The expense attending the present system (of reporting), which will not fall short of £200, has not been attended with any benefit." We will not at present discuss the advantages or disadvantages of "the system," but we must assure our contemporary that he is fearfully astray as to "the expense." The amount actually paid for reporting the Assembly's debates, down to the present time is as follows:—

To the Reporter, - - - £45 0 0
To the Printer, - - - 18 15 0

In all, - - - £63 15 0

Which is only £3 15s. more than the amount paid in former years, while 400 copies of every sheet of debates printed has been circulated by the members amongst their friends and constituents. We may be told that £90 were voted to the Reporter. True; but one half of that sum is not to be paid unless all the debates of the session are reported, to the satisfaction of a committee; and as only about one half has yet reported, we may infer there will be no further expense incurred. So our contemporary will perceive that he is jus-