To Alexander Laird, Esquire, the sum of Nine Pounds, for the relief of the following persons, viz :—

Jane & Maria Lamont,	£2	0	0
Victoria Peters,	1	10	0
Jule Doucette,	1	0	0
Pierre Doucette,	1	10	0
Widow Blanchard,	1	0	0
Robert Goss,	2	0	0

To Jeremiah Simpson, Esquire, the sum of Ten Pounds, for the relief of a family named McKay, Mill River.

To the Rev. Samuel McLeod, Uigg, the sum of Nine Pounds Ten Shillings, for the relief of the following persons, viz. :—

Catherine Curry, Lot 55,	£1	0	0
Marcella Kelly,	1	10	0
Lauchlan McDonald,	1	0	0
Dougald McPherson, Douse's R.,	1	10	0
Widow Spencer, formerly Christy Gordon,	1	10	0
Margaret Herne, Gallows Point,	1	10	0
Widow Willock,	1	10	0

To Edward Thornton, Esquire, the sum of One Pound, for McGregor's orphan child.

To Simon McKinnon, Newtown, the sum of Ten Pounds Ten Shillings, for the relief of the following persons, viz :—

Jas. Campbell, Portage, Belfast,	£1	10	0
Widow McAulay,	1	0	0
Mal. McAulay, insane,	1	0	0
Patrick Coily, blind,	2	0	0
Flora McLeod,	1	0	0
Donald Matheson, Green Marsh,	2	0	0
John McLeod,	1	0	0
John Campbell,	1	0	0

To Mr James Munn, the sum of Nine Pounds, for the relief of the following persons, viz.:—

Widow McRae, Lot 60,	£3	0	0
Effy Mathewson,	1	10	0
Margaret Finlayson, Belle Creek,	1	10	0
Mal. Nicholson, Rona Settlement,	1	10	0
Widow John Munn,	1	10	0

To Donald Beaton, Esquire, the sum of Nineteen Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Eight-pence, for the relief of the following persons, viz.:—

Margaret Cheverie,	£1	5	0
Daniel Connors,	4	10	0
Robert Main,	3	0	0
Thomas Devereux,	5	5	0
Charles Mullin,	1	10	0
Mary Morrison,	1	5	0
Widow Morrison,	1	5	8
Widow Ford,	1	5	0
William Cummings,	1	10	0
Archangel Pocquet,	1	10	0
John Jones,	1	10	0

To Daniel Flynn, Esquire, the sum of Thirteen Pounds Ten Shillings, for the relief of the following persons, viz :—

Widow Deagle,	£1	5	0
Widow McDonald,	1	5	0
Placentia Susong,	1	5	0
Widow Le Blanc,	2	10	0
Eneas Susong,	5	0	0
Widow Flynn,	5	0	0
Lauchlan Gillis,	2	0	0
Richard Coughlan,	1	10	0
Widow Simon Burke,	5	0	0

To the Hon. John Jardine, the sum of Sixteen Pounds Five Shillings, for the relief of the following persons, viz.:—

Pierce Walsh,	£3	0	0
Christy McEachern,	3	0	0
Widow Partridge,	2	0	0
Richard Whelan,	1	15	0
Donald McDonald, a blind person,	3	0	0
Angus Wilson's blind son,	1	0	0
Harriet Nicholas,	0	10	0
Nancy McAdam,	1	0	0
James Dooling,	1	0	0

To W. Underhay, Esquire, the sum of Sixteen Pounds, for the relief of the following persons, viz.:—

Mrs. Brown,	£1	0	0
Mrs. Henderson,	3	0	0
Mrs. Mathewson,	3	0	0
John De Cost,	1	10	0
Donald McLeod, (wooden-leg),	2	0	0
Mal. McDonald, De Gros Marsh,	2	0	0
Edward Roach,	1	10	0
Christy Brown, an insane person,	1	0	0

To Hugh McDonald, Esquire, the sum of Ten Pounds, for the relief of the following persons, viz :—

Thomas Sloan, Cardigan,	£1	0	0
Richard Cochran,	2	0	0
Christy McNeill, for the expense of her Father's funeral,	1	0	0
Catherine Johnston,	1	0	0
Donald McLeod, Pisquid Road,	1	0	0
Catherine McPhee, De Gros Marsh,	1	0	0
Widow Rowan, Sparrow's Road,	1	0	0
Martin McInnis, for an idiot child,	2	0	0

To Edward Thornton, Esquire, the sum of Twelve Pounds, for the relief of the following persons, viz :—

Mrs. Gardener,	£2	0	0
Effy McSween,	1	10	0
Duncan Cameron and wife,	1	0	0
John & Sarah Johnson, Douse's R.,	1	10	0
Alice McQuaid,	£1	10	0
Rachael Bruce, Whim Road,	1	0	0
Mrs. Jamieson,	1	10	0
Widow Cooper Steel,	1	10	0

And the sum of Five Pounds in the hands of Wm. Moors, for the relief of the Griffin family.

To Mr. John Nichol, the sum of Seven Pounds Ten Shillings, for the relief of the following persons, viz.:

Richard Frieze, M. Harbour,	£4	0	0
Richard Butter,	2	0	0
Samuel Le Cocq,	1	10	0

Legislative Proceedings.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, March 24.

(Hon. Mr. Holl's Speech continued.)

"The sentiment uttered on this platform to-day, by the chief magistrate of this Commonwealth, (Governor Seward, of New York,) "that, without the Bible, this Republic would never have existed," is as just, as it is emphatic: and I solemnly insist upon this inference from that truth, that without the Bible this Republic cannot continue; for the general principle contended for has a most peculiar application to ourselves.

"It is not to be supposed, that such an event, as the exclusion of the word of God from popular education, could extensively occur or continue for a considerable time without furnishing for itself many pretexts by which even good men might be beguiled, nor that such a calamity could be removed without serious resistance from many quarters. Several objections, to the restoration of the Scriptures to the schools, are so often urged by persons deserving to be heard, that it seems necessary briefly to state and answer them.

"Amongst these the most frequent, perhaps, are urged against the Scriptures themselves, which, it is alleged, are, in many particulars, far above the comprehension of children and youth; and which are, moreover, so often disfigured by a certain plainness of expression, as to be objectionable for promiscuous or even public reading before the young. To this the first reply may well be, that God who created us, and who perfectly knows us, has judged otherwise; and that he made the volume of his word, such as we have it, and has given the most express and emphatic command, that it be early, constantly, publicly, promiscuously read. To all this he has joined the most precise assurances, that exact obedience to this precept will have no other tendency than to make us wise and pure here below, and blessed beyond all conception for ever; that all manner of intercourse with him, and all communion with his holy word, are sweet pure and unmixed delightful; and that all contrary suggestions are highly offensive to him, and fall of dishonor to his infinite being. As a second reply, it may be stated, with equal truth, that all experience proves the objection to be entirely mistaken. For, of all mankind, the most, the parent, the best, have selected to write this sacred volume; and, in all ages, the objectors themselves shall say, if this has not been eminently the character of those who have the earliest, the most thoroughly, and the most sincerely pondered, mastered, imbibed, and rejoiced in its precious contents!

"A second objection, which seems to be urged out of a spirit of amiable solicitude for the Bible itself, would extend to all the course of education, lest a too great familiarity with it in early life should disparage religion itself in our subsequent regards. This conceit is founded in total ignorance of the human heart, and they who utter it overlook one of the freshest and most amiable laws of our mortal being. The objects which we cherish most fondly and most steadfastly are those which first occupied our early and ardent thoughts. Oh! that we could bind the early and tender affections of the whole people to the name of Christ, to the throne of God! Oh! that this fatal familiarity with divine truth were the universal heritage of the children of our country!

"It is a fact, that, many, who, in themselves the friends of education, are totally opposed to all religious influence, either in the school or the community; and there is too much reason to suppose, that plans are already extensively contemplated, whose success will exclude for ever all moral instruction from the course of popular education. This branch of this great subject needs, and must receive, first or last, a thorough sifting. But this is not the occasion. I will, at present, only say, that, manifestly, there can be no union of effort between those friends of education who exclude from their system all moral training, and those who make conscience of taking the Bible to school with them; and the sooner this question is made known between them, at the bar of the public, the better for the country; for the question involved is no less than this: whether the education of a religious people shall be subjected to an Infidel or a Christian control?"

I have given these extracts in order to prove, that, as early as 1839, the Bible was being restored to the schools of the United States, and, in support of my position, I will submit to your honors an extract from a work of a well known writer of the United States, viz.: "Calvin Colton," entitled "Public Economy":—

"But it need not be feared, that this is not the intended economy, the plan of Christian education. It was not devised for the few, but for the many; not for a select and privileged corps, but for the millions. General, popular education, is the great scheme laid out for this republican system. If there be any feature more distinct, more prominent, and more observable, in the social structure of this great commonwealth, than any other, it is that of equal chances in life to all; that a child shall not be in poverty, for want of opportunities to acquire knowledge; that he shall not be doomed to a low condition, because such was the lot of his parents; and that there shall be no insuperable impediments of a social and moral nature to his advancement in the social state, to rise, if he can, not accepting the highest within the scope of a just and laudable ambition.

"The system of common schools, early set up in this country, coeval indeed with American civilization, handed down from generation to generation, provided for as the first care of the state, and watched over with paternal solicitude, nurtured, endowed, edified, and never suffered to decline, but always put forward with vigor and efficiency, is the cradle of these chances we speak of. On this foundation, common to all, has been erected a system of select and higher schools, up to the college and university, which are also within the reach of all, by reason of system of public economy, to which it is our special purpose in this chapter to notice; not indeed, so much within the reach of all as the common schools, but yet not excluding any, nor presenting insuperable obstacles to any. The poorest and meanest boy, of the land, prompted by innate ambition, and developing hopeful talent, can and do often pass through all the stages of education, from the common school, till they have graduated honor at the highest seminaries, and entered upon the graver responsibilities of life, to contend, in open and fair field, with the best born, for the highest prizes of the social state, whether of wealth or honor, which are the attributes of American society and institutions to favor and help forward the man that emerges from obscurity and strives to rise. The common school is the basis of all; the genius of the government is the parent of all; and the joint offspring of both, the success of all."

"Turn now to the condition of the American people, who, as the people, are also the laborers of the country. In the first place their physical condition is one of comfort, of independence, and of thrift, because they work for themselves, and have the reward of their own labour. In the next place, being in such a condition, they have time to think; and their fathers having been in his condition, they were sent to school, and qualified to think. Seeing the worth of knowledge, and enjoying its satisfactions, they, in turn, send their children to school, because they love them. All, one generation before them, are equally equipped. They are brought to comfort, taste and realize the blessings of intellectual and moral culture which they have enjoyed, and are not only constantly improving in knowledge, by the exhilarating employment of their leisure and independence, and by the periodical emanations of the press, but they are able to educate and prepare their children for any position in life, which they choose to assign to them, as none are barred by any class. By industry and economy, they can set only live in this way, and in this way bring up their families, but they can acquire wealth, enlarge their estates, and extend their influence by a course of exemplary morals and conduct. Every stage of life is one of increasing interest to them, presenting more powerful incentives to virtue, to moral and social eminence, and to leave behind them an inheritance for their children, and a good name for themselves. All along, in the progress of their lives, they find themselves free and independent members of a political commonwealth, in the government of which they share, and which secures to them all these blessings. Which, not the least, but the greatest, they are not only educated for time, but for eternity."

Having furnished sufficient evidence proof of the admission of the Scriptures into the common schools of the United States, I intended to present you with a few passages from a work by Sir E. L. Bulwer—"England and the English;" in favor of Education founded on religion, but as I have already occupied your attention by the voluminous extracts which I deemed requisite, I will merely read a few notes to the appendix:

"I am happy in this opinion to fortify myself by the expression of a single sentiment in M. Guizot, in which it is difficult to say whether we should admire most the eloquence, or the sagacity, or the common sense. I subjoin some extracts:

"'The popular schools of a state,' he says, in recommending the outline of a general education for France to Mr. Montalivet, "ought to be penetrated with the religious spirit of that nation. In Christianity, or is it not, the religion of France! We must allow that it is. Then, I ask, will we respect the religion of the people, or shall we destroy it? If we undertake the destruction of Christianity, then, I own, we must take care not to teach it. But if we do not propose to ourselves to destroy it, we must teach our children the faith which has civilized their parents, and the liberal spirit of which has prepared and sustains our great modern institutions. Religion, in my eyes, is the best base of popular instruction. I know a little of Europe; no where has I seen great concern for the people's good the Christian charity was not. In human societies there are some things for the accomplishment of which Virtue is necessary; or, when speaking of the great masses, Belief. Were you to take from the treasures of the state, to tax parish and district still you could not dispense with Christian charity; or with that spirit of humbleness and self-restraint, courageous resignation and modest dignity, which christianity, well understood, and well taught can alone give to the instruction of the poor. It would be necessary to call religion to our aid, were it only a matter of finance."

"Schools for girls in the poorer classes are equally important as those for boys. Note, in M'Kay's account of Manchester, the slovenly improvidence of females in a manufacturing town; note, in the evidence on the poor-laws, the idleness, the open want of thrift, the vicious ignorance of a great class of females everywhere. Mothers have often a greater moral effect upon children than the fathers; if the child is to be moral, provide for the morals of the mother."

I must however, add one extract from pages 184 and 190, in which he states that "for the poor, religion must be always provided,they want the consolation; they must comfort themselves with its belief. Revelation is their millennium—their great emancipation.—Thus in, America, knowledge is the most diffused, and religion is the most fondly and enthusiastically believed—there you may often complain of its excess, but rarely of its absence.—In America, I add the instances of Holland, of Germany, and of Scotland; and in the note at foot—even Robespierre in his remarkable discourse on the restoration of public worship, is compelled to acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being, who protects the poor, and rewards the just, as a popular consolation without which the people would despair."

On the latter page, under the head of popular education, the argument using thatgovernment requires strength in order to dispense with violence, he says—"I shall not enter into any particular proof of the advantage of general education: I shall take that advantage for granted. In my mind, the necessity for instruction was settled by an aphorism centuries ago: "vice we can learn of ourselves, but virtue and wisdom require a tutor." If this principle be disputed, the question yet rests on another: "we are not debating now, whether or not the people shall be instructed—that has been determined long ago—but whether they shall be *well* or *ill* taught." Here you perceive, he is of opinion, that for the purposes of good government the people ought to be instructed on the basis of religion; thus conforming my conclusion on the system,which prevails in the states of America."

With a quotation from a speech of the Rev. Thos. Jackson (President, last year, of the Wesleyan Conference.) I will bring my remarks to a close, he says—"It seems now to be generally admitted that the children of the laboring classes in this country (England) will be educated, and hence attention is turning in all directions, and the public mind is being directed with great intensity of feeling to the object of finding out the best and most effective system of education. No man who reflects upon what they do in this country, and yet I feel,that all education must be essentially defective unless Bible truth be a leading and essential element of it.—By all means,let our children be educated,let them be acquainted with letters, let them be instructed in the sciences, but let them be taught the best of Books—we have no right to withhold from them that Book; it belongs to them; the possession of it was conceded to them by God, to make them wise unto salvation—we must keep from the hands of the rising generation the words of inspired truth!"

In concluding,I must apologise for the great length at which I have treated this question, but I feel so deeply convinced that education, to be a real blessing to the community must be based on religion, that I have endeavored to prove the justness of my views by the copious extract I have submitted to your notice.

The remarks I have made will go abroad to the world. (I regret that the Hon. Mr. M'Donald is not in his place, yet feel assured that he would not take offence at anything which has fallen from my lips,) and I therefore wish it to be perfectly understood, that I do not desire to enact, that the reading of any one or other particular church must be adhered to—that this or that particular catechism shall be learned—nor do I want to proselyte the people, but I select the Bible as the foundation of our proposed system of education, that by the right study of that book, so general a knowledge of the God who bestowed it may be arrived at, as will result in his being so fully recognised, as the chief governor of his creatures, as to have his property and universally reverred. If we honor God, prosperity will be the result to families and nations; and it is my humble opinion, if the people of France and of Ireland had been early taught to reverence and had continued to reverence the Bible, nothing, they would not be in the present unpleasant circumstances, I shall defer my remarks on the financial question involved in the Bill, until it is in Committee, and take such further action in the matter, as may appear advisable.

Hon. Mr. SWABEY, Sir, I feel myself called upon to make some remarks, on what has just fallen from his Honor, which I will endeavor to do with the greatest possible brevity. With all the matter he has brought before us, he has not shewn the principle on which he wishes the Bible to be introduced into our schools, which is what I have been particularly anxious to learn. I am puzzled to legislate satisfactorily for the introduction of the Bible into their Schools and have therefore dropped the subject. His Honor has also introduced Robespierre to our notice. I consider this a most singular reference indeed.

Hon. Mr. HOLL. He was not so bad a man as you may have imagined.

Hon. Mr. SWABEY—You are certainly the first person I have ever heard speak in his praise, however, if Robespierre himself were here, with all his learning and sagacity,I would defy him to legislate wisely for the Bible in the place or vicinity of all parties in this House.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL. Hon. Mr. Hensley has said, Sir, that the Lieut. Governor in his speech had promised this Bill would be here *shortly*, now on reference to the speech I find it says "measures will be introduced" &c. &c. I, Sir, have not, since the reading to the Bill, I perceive it passed the Assembly on the 18th and came up here on the 19th, consequently, it has been 3 days before the House, therefore I do not see any reason for the charge of discourtesy toward this House. I perfectly agree with my Hon. friend, Mr. Holl, as respects his motive in devising a religious foundation to our education, but there are a great number of difficulties in the people with, that I consider it would not be at all prudent to move in it, especially without precedent,as his Honor has not furnished us with any.

Mr. HENSLEY. Mr. President—I do not know, that I should have troubled your honors with any remarks, if it had not been for the emphatic manner in which my honorable friend concluded his speech. He said, "the remarks I make I wish to go forth to the world;" and adds, "that he would never be ruled by expediency." I am sure his honor would not wish, that his words should bear an offensive interpretation. Expediency, as it is sometimes used, implies a desertion of principle for some base and selfish purpose, which I am sure he did not intend to infer, that those who differed from him were ruled by such an expediency. I believe, Sir, that there is an expediency founded in the highest wisdom; and I am supported in that opinion by finding even in the holy book which his honor has so reverentially referred to. I may, perhaps, be permitted to note one, (although I am always unwilling to touch such matters in debate,) which was exhibited by the wisest legislator the world has ever seen and one which our Saviour himself referred to in these words—"Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, *suffered* you to put away your wives: but, from the beginning, it was not so." Moses was aware, that what he permitted was an evil; but he was aware that with a multitude not so far advanced in the truth as himself, he abstained from insisting where his authoritative interference would have only resulted in a greater evil. I am sure that we all join with full warmth of feeling in the fervor expressed by his honor, to have our system of education founded on the Bible. His honor has read many excellent extracts from the writings and speeches of celebrated men upon this matter; but he must be well aware, that it was more easy to write well and plausibly upon such a subject than to carry it into practice, against the feelings and prejudices of numerous opponents. We might each sit down and write an eloquent essay in its favor; but, after this was done, could we go out and compel every one individual to carry out our ideas? I think, in such cases, we can only act similarly to some of our agricultural implements: they do not accomplish the whole object we have in view at the first operation; they do not at once level every mound and fill every hole; yet, by repeated operations they ultimately reduce the roughest surface to a level. In this view, the Parliament of Great Britain has permitted the Educational Schools in Ireland to use only extracts from Scripture, hoping, no doubt, that such a taste will be created, that by reading the extracts, as will tend to the study of the whole Bible, and some others of the same kind is resorted to by most of the European States. We have heard to-day, that the Bible is silently winning its way into the schools, which is a great progress. We heartily wish it God speed! This great difficulty is not confined to us alone. It is a question which has occupied the wit of the most profound statesmen, and such insurmountable difficulties have arisen, in the attempt to legislate for the Bible, that it has generally been concluded to leave the whole matter to that Power which can soften the obduracy of man's spirit, and direct all things to a wholesome conclusion.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

DESPATCH OF THE LATE LIEUT. GOVERNOR, SIR DONALD CAMPBELL, BART., ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FRANCHISE AND CONSTITUTION OF THIS ISLAND.

THURSDAY, March 25.

The following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, was laid before the House by the Hon. Colonial Secretary.

MESSAGE

From His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in reference to a Despatch from the late Sir Donald Campbell, recommending an alteration in the Constitution of the Colony.

A. BANNERMAN, Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor has to acquaint the Assembly, that the Despatch, alluded to, was transmitted to the Secretary of State by his immediate Predecessor, under the belief, that it would be unwise to concede Responsible Government, unless accompanied with a measure, to limit the Franchise to a closer assimilation to a right of suffrage, exercised in the other North American Colonies, where it is confined to Freeholders alone, by limiting the County Constituencies to freehold of not less than forty shillings; and Leaseholders possessing fifty acres, at an annual rent of fifty shillings, twenty years' occupation, and improvements thereon, amounting to £300 currency—to raise the qualification of the Members of the Assembly, and to reduce their number to ninetem. Such was the substance of the Despatch; and the Lieutenant Governor is of opinion, that laying it before the Assembly with the proposed law necessary to have effected such a change in the Constitution, would not tend to aid the Assembly in the revision of the Election Law, which he observes, is now under their consideration.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, March 4, 1852.

The Message being read, the Speaker left the Clerk.—

Hon. Mr. POPE. In this Message of His Excellency, we have a concise revelation of the attempt of the late Governor and his Council to destroy the liberties of the people of this Colony; and, inasmuch as that revelation is, it exhibits the extent and depth of the plot, to an extent, sufficient to prove, that it was one of the most diabolical schemes ever devised by a Government against a people ever whose welfare it was placed in authority, and for whose benefit they were supposed or intended to rule. When at St. Eleanor's, at the election of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, I accused the late Government with having been privy, or parties to such a design on the part of the late Sir Donald Campbell—the latter, although the details of the infamous project were, at that time, known in the Island, to none but its arbitrary devisers and the few to whom, in anticipation of success, they had communicated their secret, yet it was generally known, particularly in Charlottetown, that Sir Alexander Bannerman had been expected to bring out a new Constitution for the Colony, which would effectually restrain the will of the People and their Representatives for the establishment of self-government—when, I say, I charged the late Government with a guilty knowledge of, if not actual participation in, so traitorous a design, my gentlemen there present, and the Hon. Colonial Secretary and Government—Mr. Haviland, the late Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Palmer, the late Solicitor General—both strenuously denied, that they had any knowledge of any such design on the part of the Governor, Sir Sir Donald or the Executive Council. The diabolical design, by which nearly all the leaseholders of Prince Edward Island were virtually to be disfranchised,—for such would have been the positive effect of restricting the exercise of the elective franchise to freeholders of twenty years' occupation, and whose improvements should be worth £300—is, however, brought to light; and, although it has, fortunately for the people, completely miscarried, no direct or subterfuge, as to their previous knowledge it, will now, I think, avail to save those who, as members of the late Government, were assuredly either its actual concoctors, or at least privy to its formation, from the execration of those to whom they had, even with cool malignity, plotted to betray and rob of the rights of freemen.

Mr. CLARK. I was at St. Eleanor's on the occasion alluded to by the Hon. the Treasurer; and I very well remember, that when he taxed the late Government and the Gentlemen then present with having been members of it, with being in the capacity of Executive Councillors, privy to a design of the late Sir Donald Campbell's, having for its object a restriction of the political liberties of the people, or an obstruction to the full establishment of Responsible Government, those gentlemen positively denied having had any hand in, or knowledge of, such a design.

Hon. Mr. POPE. I do not now hesitate to say, that although at that time I only suspected the worst, I should, I am now positive, that one of those gentlemen had a perfect knowledge of the design; for the copy of the Despatch is in his hand writing, with which I am so well acquainted, that I can have no doubt about it.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The impression upon my mind, with reference to what has been stated, as having passed at St. Eleanor's, at the election of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, between the Hon. the Treasurer, on the one hand, and the late Colonial Secretary, and the honorable and learned member for Charlottetown on the other, is that, when taxed, by the Hon. the Treasurer, with having had a hand in the preparation of a new Constitution for the Colony, with a view to the circumscribing of the political liberties of the people, those gentlemen did not directly deny their having had any share in the framing of the new Constitution, but merely defied the Hon. the Treasurer to prove, that they had any knowledge of such such a Constitution, or had any knowledge of it. But that they could be ignorant of it is what no one who had read the organ of the late government, the *Islander*, believes; for, in that paper, it, in fact, had been triumphantly asserted, that Sir Alexander Bannerman would bring out a new Constitution for the Colony; and the arrival of this Constitution was fondly looked for by all the friends of that Government in Charlottetown, and it would have been one of such delighted with the expectation of it, had they not been pretty well acquainted with its nature. I believe the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Douse) will not deny that he was one of those who, if he did not expect Sir Alexander Bannerman would bring out such a Constitution in his pocket, and that he was much disappointed when he found that His Excellency had been only the bearer of an authority for the depriving nearly the whole of the constituency of their elective franchise. The nefarious and treasonable project, so carefully devised in secret, is now brought to light, and with it, we have a pretty full revelation of the manner in which those individuals which the late Government and its supporters would have rejoiced to see dealt out to the people. Had the wicked project taken effect, this House would have been composed of a few proprietors and Proprietors and their lawyers; for all leaseholders, except those whose improvements are worth £20 a year, would have been disfranchised. We have seen the Election Law before us, and would have treason was meditated against the people, it is now, I think, our duty, as their faithful representatives, to shew our detestation of the abominable and tyrannous design, and instead of confirming the present restrictions on the Elective Franchise, to do away them entirely and make our electors as free as the winds. It will, no doubt, be attempted, by some of those who were among the advisers of the late Government, to extenuate the enormity of the intended disfranchisement of the tenantry upon him, by asserting, that he was the sole devisor and perfecter of the scheme. But such an assertion will gain credit with but very few, if any; for the Despatch recommending the disfranchisement of tenantry, was accompanied by a Bill, duly framed in all its parts, and ready to be passed through the Imperial Parliament for the effecting of that disfranchisement; and it is well known that, during the late Sir Donald Campbell's knowledge of the settlements and localities of the Island could be such, as to enable him, without the assistance of some one more intimately acquainted with them, to prescribe the limits of the elective franchise, and determine the places most suitable for the holding of the polls. In the details of the Bill, it is quite evident, that he must have been assisted by some such individual; and the person likely to be, if not more than the necessary aid, than the Crown Law Officers and the Colonial Secretary of the day? That the Bill was copied by one of them, there is undeniable proof, and we may safely infer, that the scheme had not had his approbation and concurrence, he would, on becoming acquainted with its character and object, at once have tendered his resignation of his seat in the Council. If that Bill had passed—and that it did not is, I believe, owing to the firm and upright decision of Earl Grey—Responsible Government, (the introduction of which was to follow its adoption), would have been absolute mockery of the great body of the people, for as many proprietors and freeholders could have voted at the elections, none but the representatives of proprietors and freeholders could have sat in the Assembly; and, if such an Assembly had manifested any especial regard for the interests of the tenantry, they would have had a very large share of the milk of human kindness in their bosoms.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. The extract given in His Excellency's Message is sufficient to shew the intention and object of the infernal scheme. According to it, no leaseholder would have been allowed to vote at an election, unless he had been twenty years in the occupation of the premises, and his improvement therein were worth £300. It would, in fact, have deprived every tenant in the Island of the elective franchise. I cannot find words to express my abhorrence of the design, or my detestation of the principles of government of which the villainous project must have had its origin. The document itself is, in the wide sclness of its purpose, the most extraordinary, that I have ever had the misfortune to read. The Bill was to be passed into law, the assistance of the Imperial Government, and to be passed through the Imperial Parliament, for the nefariously arbitrary purpose of depriving the People of this Colony of the advantages of a free representative Constitution, by a fraud, a calumny, misrepresentation, and arguments, with which, no doubt, its contrivers sought to delude Earl Grey into an admission of its propriety or necessity, seem to have been urged by vain; and he appears now, happily enough no other purpose, than to shew what detestable tyranny the framers of the measure would have exercised over the tenantry of this Colony, had their influence with the Imperial Government been sufficient to procure it being passed into a law. It is hardly possible to conceive any thing of a more dishonest or tyrannical character, than the design entertained by the late Lieutenant Governor—a design so utterly at variance with every principle of equity and freedom, that I cannot persuade myself, that a single member of this House, or a single individual deserving any place in civilized society, would have consented to support a Government that would devise such treachery, or be found willing to carry it into effect.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. COLES—the House went into Committee on the Hon. Mr. Whelan's Bill for the Extension of the Elective Franchise; and the above Message was submitted to it—Mr. WIGHTMAN in the Chair.

The Message having been read by the Chairman,

Hon. Mr WARBURTON rose and observed, that he did not believe one paragraph of the Despatch alluded to in the Message, would accord with the sentiments entertained on this side of the House, with respect either to the elective franchise or the Constitution of the Colony; and neither did he think the tenor and object