

# The Examiner.

## AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21.

#### THE MAILS.

We are told that the advocates and apologists of the Governor are labouring might and main to shield his Excellency from censure for the monstrous deception he has practised upon the authorities in England, in reference to our postal communications. These people must have a very mean opinion of the common sense of the community if they think to entrap, for a moment, any intelligent mind into a belief of their representations. "How could the Governor have caused the stoppage of the Mails?" they ask: "the House of Assembly is alone to blame, as it voted no supplies." The answer to this silly question is obvious. Some person in the Colony must have acquainted the Post Master General that the revenue derived from the establishment here is not equal to the expenditure incurred, and that as there was no appropriation from the public funds, it was not safe to continue the service, unless the charges necessary for its support could be drawn from the Imperial Treasury. Now it is not likely that any other person than the Governor would have communicated such information; nor is it likely it would have been listened to, had it emanated from any other source. We remember the nervous anxiety his Excellency exhibited in reference to this subject in his prorogation Speech—we remember his subsequent uncalled-for interference, through the Deputy Post Master, with the Mail carriers, when he advised them to break through their contracts; and these facts are alone sufficient to prove that his Excellency is at the bottom of this disreputable business. Besides, it is extremely improbable that the Deputy Post Master (the only other individual who can be supposed to have any influence with the Post Office authorities in England) would have so intrigued as to bring about a suspension of the Mail communication, when such an occurrence would be attended with the most disastrous consequences to himself, as it would deprive him of the means of an honourable livelihood. And it is not less improbable that the Post Master General would have interfered if he knew that the receipts at the Post Office were sufficient for its support. The payment of these receipts into the Treasury and their appropriation by the House of Assembly, for the use of the Post Office, has hitherto been a mere matter of form. The Post Office is beyond the controul of the Legislature, and no one has ever denied that it enjoys the power of disbursing its expenses out of its receipts. Now these receipts, as we pointed out on Saturday by reference to the journal of the Assembly, are equal, or more than equal, to the expenditure; and this being the fact, it is absolutely

absurd to suppose that the Post Master General would have authorized the suspension of a service that could be carried on independently of the local Legislature, and without expense to the Imperial Government, unless he were grossly misinformed as to the facts of the case, for the authority alleged to have been communicated by him to Mr. Owen, would otherwise be an unwarrantable interference with the interests and privileges of the whole community. We repeat that the Post Master General would never be so insane as to suspend, or cause to be suspended, a service, the charges of which were freely and adequately borne by the public for whose benefit it was established, unless the responsibility of its support were grossly sought to be imposed upon the British public.

Since we have written the above, we have learned that it was determined at a meeting of the Executive Council on Monday last, that the British, foreign, and Colonial Mails should be received and transmitted as usual, the all-powerful Council guaranteeing, as we are told, the payment of the expenses to be incurred thereby. Well this is amazingly funny! A Council guaranteeing the payment of public money, when they cannot command over five or six votes in the Assembly to appropriate it! But the funniest part of the farce is yet to come. The order received by Mr. Owen, so the story runs, was a peremptory one—no description of postal communication was excepted—British, foreign, colonial, and inland Mails, were all to share the same fate. Now, how will the possessed Council answer this question—if they have the power to set one part of the order aside, have they not the power to set the whole aside? The blunders thicken around the Government with tremendous rapidity. His Excellency, by the force of representations home, procures an order from the Post Master General to stop all the Mails. The Council sit in solemn conclave, and determine that that won't do; they find Sir Donald has gone too far, and they behave to pull him back; his Excellency, good easy man, is forced to submit, because, by aid of the superior wisdom of his Council, he and they plainly perceive that the British Mails for this Island will cross the Atlantic as heretofore; the Imperial Government can't stop them—dare not stop them, notwithstanding the foolish order of the Post Master General: the Mail Bags cannot remain in Pictou: it won't do to let them moulder in the pigeon holes of the Post Office there, or allow their contents to be given to dress-makers for patterns, or to grocers for wrapping up parcels of sugar. Over they must come; the Council, in their magnanimity, make a virtue of necessity, and resolve to admit them. Besides, the Governor has despatches to transmit, which he cannot write, and despatches to receive, which he won't print. *Vive la*

*bagatelle!* Misrepresentation has not yet consummated its end—has not yet triumphed over the power of the Assembly and people; therefore be it wisely resolved, that despatches shall go and come,—and such being the state of the case, other communications cannot be cut off. But as for the inland Mails—what are they? They mostly concern the nearest and dearest interests of the rebellious people who had the audacity to return a majority of representatives to oppose Compact schemes and interests; therefore; let them be cut off. Another great desideratum is, the people may be kept in ignorance of the acts of the Government—the Press will be muzzled, and public opinion quenched, like the snuff of a candle.

Let this fact be indelibly stamped upon the public mind: the local Government could as easily disregard the order of the Post Master General in respect to the Inland Mails, as well as to the Foreign or British ones. The order is as peremptory in the one case as in the other. It is useless to say there was no money granted for this purpose. There was no money granted for the Foreign Mails. Why will not the Executive guarantee the payment of expenses attending the former as well as those entailed by the latter? But there is no guarantee required. Mr. Owen has the necessary funds at his disposal. He paid the last quarter's expenses of the Inland Mails, ending in July. There was no grant then: there was no grant necessary. Will any body say that he would be unable to pay the next quarter's expenses, when it is evident from the past, that the receipts are fully equal to the outlay? Interrogatories are vain. It is idle to admonish a Government that is driving headlong to its own destruction. Like a swimming pig, it is cutting its own throat faster than any body wishes it to do.

A greater blunder than any that the Government has committed, or is likely to commit, is to suppose, that the communications with the country will be stopped. If there is any man in the community with the spirit of a cute Yankee, he will forthwith open a Post Office. The opportunity is an admirable one for the employment of superfluous time and energy. The speculation would pay better than the traffic in potatoes.

#### THE OLD STORY.

"An Elector" again pants through a column of flatulent and verbose nonsense in the last *Islander*, from which we are only enabled to discover that his intellects are still fearfully unsettled about the story of the Members' Pay, and the non-appropriation for roads and bridges. Beyond these topics he cannot budge a peg—the moment he quits either or both, his declamation flaps like a wet blanket; so that any one who has read his first letter, can honestly say that he has read the en-

tire eleven. Have you ever heard, patient and indulgent reader! the perpetual motion man descant, for the fiftieth time, upon his darling theory—have you ever had your dinner spoilt by that most execrable bore, "the unfortunate man" of your acquaintance, nabbing you by the button-hole, and reciting in your reluctant ears for the twentieth time, his narrative of grievances, about which you understand as little as when he first commenced his persecution—have you ever heard our royal brother of the *Gazette* make a speech, for the Lord knows how many times, about the liberty of the press and the cares and responsibilities of an editor's life—have you ever listened to a stupid lawyer (the Solicitor General for example) make a drivelling, floundering harangue, in the Court or in the Assembly, by which he established his own ignorance, and set people around him yawning, without confounding an adversary,—well! if you have been subjected to any of these inflictions, you may readily form a tolerably correct idea of the character of "an Elector's" letters. Will nobody give him "a lift," in the way of supplying him with a new subject, on which he may pump all the suds of his declamation?

#### A WORD IN SEASON.

There can be no doubt that the time is near at hand, when the necessary arrangements being completed, the long-looked-for privilege of Self Government must be conferred upon the people of this Island, in common with their fellow subjects in the other provinces. It is, however, to be expected, that the official oligarchy and their tools will use every exertion and artifice to postpone the introduction of the new System, for the longer they can keep the Island in its present condition, the longer will they put money into their own pockets, even in defiance of the Legislature. It is likewise to be expected, that they will urge the Governor to dissolve the present Assembly, in the hope of getting a subservient, slavish, and tory majority of representatives to do just as they please, and to continue them in office. They have nothing to lose by a General Election; but may gain something. Let the people be, therefore, on their guard. The battle of constitutional liberty is fought and won—bravely and completely won, in spite of all the tricks and stratagems that human cunning could devise to support a bad cause. But it is not the part of a victorious and prudent army to give way too suddenly to idle transports of joy, and to forget that the posts and fortresses require vigilant watching and means of defence as well after victory as before it. Let the people, then, still watch the movements of the foe as keenly as though they had achieved no triumph, and be prepared to fight another field, if necessary, as gallantly and as successfully as they fought the last.