

this Colony would be included in it or not, as a member of the Legislature of this Island to be a farce, and our constituents not a free people.

Mr. BRECKEN.—Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member for Belfast, that it was not at all probable that the Home Government would take away the Constitution of the Colony without our consent. But the Government did not know what instructions His Excellency might, almost at any moment, receive. He might have been instructed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to dissolve the House, and test the opinion of the country on the question of Confederation. Suppose that he had received instructions a week or two after the Election was over, would not the country have thought that the Government of the day had been too hasty in making an appeal to the people? I am just as prepared as the hon. member to stand up for the rights of the Colony; but considering our insignificance, I cannot admit that we are so independent of the Mother Country, as he has asserted. The object of the late Government, he also stated, seemed to be to bring discredit, or a stigma upon the Colony. This was caused, he says, by their sending for the troops. The Tenant Union disturbances, are no doubt looked upon by him, as a very trifling affair. He did not condescend to inform us whether he was a member of that organization or not; but I know, Sir, that when a procession of that body paraded the streets of Charlottetown, they halted opposite the hon. gentleman's business establishment, and gave him an ovation. He appeared at the door before them, and received the honor with a countenance radiant with the smiles of patriotism. I am not going to detain this hon. committee at present to discuss the point whether the nature of the disturbances which arose, out of the great Tenant League agitation, were such as to justify the late Government in sending for troops. I will merely say that if the hon. member for Belfast sincerely believes that their action in the matter was intended, or calculated to bring the Colony into disgrace, he ought, now, since he is a member of the Government, to have introduced a paragraph into His Excellency's speech to carry out the objects of the Tenant Association which he contemned and supported. A little pepper in the speech would have been an improvement. I was not at the hon. member's elbow during his election campaign, but I have been informed that the League had not a little to do with his presence here. If, then, Sir, he owes his seat in this House to that organization, why has he not something in this Address on the subject, even supposing he could not procure a place for it in the speech from the Throne? I fear, Sir, that having ridden into this House on that political horse, he has turned him away, never more to be heard of, until the next Election day comes round. I can only compare his conduct to a man who has undertaken a long journey on foot, and finding himself fatigued, and almost dead, pairing of reaching his destination, he meets with a horse which he coaxes with a little provender, leaps on his back, rides to the end of his journey, and then turns him adrift. So is the hon. member with that organization; he gave it a few political oats, and encouraged it to help him along, but having served his purpose, he has now quietly forgotten its claims. I may declare about the troops and the acts of the late Government, but now, after having become one of His Excellency's sworn advisers, he will discover that he must pursue the same policy in maintaining law and order, as was adopted by the Conservative party. It is rumored that the British troops are to be withdrawn from the other Provinces after they are confederated. If so, those which are here will also be called away. Should the hon. member for Belfast, then, insist that law and order cannot be maintained in this Colony, except at the point of the bayonet, he, I think, will conclude that we are not so independent as he at present imagines.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—The subject of the League having been brought forward by the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) one of the members of the Government, it is, Mr. Chairman, no harm for the opposition to mention it. The conduct of my hon. colleague in regard to the Tenant association has been, I think, somewhat strange. In fact he has merely used that body as a means of getting into power, even in his canvass before the late Election, he regulated his speeches in regard to the Land Question and the rights of the Tenantry very much by the character of the people whom he happened to be addressing. He should not, I think, have alluded to this question, and I wonder he has done so. But, Sir, returning to the paragraph under discussion, why did not the present Government, if they desired to call the Legislature at an earlier period, wait a few weeks before appointing their principal officers from the members on the floor of the House? Could not some of these appointments have been postponed until the House had risen, and thereby no delay be occasioned? But the Address throughout follows the policy of the late Government—that policy which at the late Election the present Government found so much fault with, but which now they appear ready to carry out. I, for my part, Mr. Chairman, see nothing objectionable in this paragraph, but am surprised at my hon. colleague's allusions to the Tenant League. It is plain that he has merely used that organization as a means of getting into the Government, and that he will now have no further use for the tenantry until he again calls upon them at another Election.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—I wish, Mr. Chairman, to make a few remarks regarding the defence of the hon. member for Charlottetown, with respect to the action of the late Government in delaying the general Elections. The observations which he has fallen from that gentleman would lead us to believe that had certain news come from England regarding Confederation, the House would never have been called. This is but a poor defence of the action of the Government, and is equal to saying that its members were willing to sell their country and prove traitors to the trust reposed in them. And is not the party carrying out the same policy still? Have not the Opposition chosen the hon. and learned member for Georgetown, a red hot Unionist, as their leader, thus showing their leanings to the Confederation scheme? With regard to what my colleague (Mr. Duncan) has said of my connection with the Tenant League, I may tell him that I am not now in the House through the influence of that body, though many of its members voted for me. It is true that I at first supported the Tenants in their demands, but I had afterwards cause to disapprove of many of their acts. The hon. member's rambling allusions to my canvass and election in Belfast have not very much weight. He elected to support to carry all Belfast before him, but failed in the attempt.

Mr. BRECKEN.—In the explanation which I gave of the probable cause of the delay in issuing the Writ for the General Election, I merely stated that, in my opinion, that delay was occasioned by a desire on the part of the late Government to postpone the late Elections until something more definite was known on the subject of Confederation, they would first have had to submit it to the Legislature; and I therefore do not see that they were in a position to act as traitors, even were they so inclined. Much, Mr. Chairman, has been said about the Opposition's having chosen the hon. member for Georgetown, (Mr. Haviland) who is a Confederate, as their leader, but I cannot think it consistent in the hon. member for Belfast to condemn for doing so when the party of which he is a member offered the highest honor in this House which they could confer upon the same Confederate gentleman, namely, the Speaker's Chair. And has not the Government of which he is a member appointed a gentleman who is a strong Confederate to the most lucrative office in their gift? That gentleman has since lost his Election, and I am sorry that such is the case. The Queen's Printer has always been a credit to the House, and I would not have the slightest objection to seeing him now on the floor, for I have always respected him, strongly though he has denounced the policy of the Conservative party. I consider that the Liberal party—such a party exists—acted rightly in appointing Mr. Whelan; I merely object to the inconsistency of hon. members who made that appointment, now finding fault with the Opposition for selecting their ablest and most experienced member as their Leader, even though he be a Confederate.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—The hon. member who has just spoken considers that I cannot, with any degree of consistency, approve of Mr. Whelan's appointment as Queen's Printer, and yet condemn the Opposition for choosing the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Haviland) as their Leader. It is well known that Mr. Whelan had strong claims upon the Liberal party. He ran his Election, was returned, and then applied for the Printership; but, before that office was given him, he renounced his former opinions upon Confederation, and promised to oppose the measure in the House; if again elected, it appears, however, that on his returning to his constituents, they were not satisfied with his promise, and rejected him; and, I am proud, as a politician, they did so, though I myself believe that, had Mr. Whelan been again returned, he would have opposed Confederation. But the case is different in regard to Mr. Haviland. The Opposition have chosen him unpledged, and he will still support Confederation.

TUESDAY, April 23.
Hon. Attorney General, from the Committee on expiring Laws, presented the first report of said Committee, and moved that it be made the order of the day tomorrow.
Hon. Mr. Haviland, leader of the Opposition, said that in the report just read, he observed one law had expired named in the report, the immediate consideration of which was necessary. He would therefore move that the House do now go into Committee on the report.
Hon. Attorney General supported the motion. Mr. George Sinclair in the chair.
The House in Committee reported the following Resolution, agreed to, namely: That it is expedient to revive, continue, and amend the law relating to the limits and rules of Jails in this Island.
A Committee was then appointed to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith.
On motion of Mr. Brecken, Mr. John Yeo obtained leave of absence for a week.
The House in Committee of the whole resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. The paragraph relating to the purchase of Proprietary lands was read.
Hon. Attorney General moved the adoption of that clause, and expressed his desire to see the leasehold system entirely abolished. He was favorable to the obtaining of a loan as a means for providing funds for the payment of lands, and was of the opinion that the Cunard Estate, purchased by the late Government, might have been secured under the provisions of a Loan Bill, on terms more favorable to the tenantry, and less damaging to the interests of the Colony, than those adopted relative to that purpose.
Hon. Leader of the Opposition did not intend to move any amendment to the paragraph under consideration, with which he found no fault. He contended, however, that the Conservative party had evinced a great desire to enfranchise the people of this Colony as ever the Liberal party did. The Land Purchase Act was never made a party measure, as could be seen on reference to the records of that House. The Fifteen years' Purchase Bill, much as it had been condemned, conferred incalculable benefits on many of the tenantry whose arrears of rents was remitted by its provisions—rents that to his knowledge could have been collected, especially from many of the tenantry on the Cunard and Montgomery Estates, were by the provisions of that Bill cancelled. He reviewed the opinions of the hon. Attorney General regarding a loan, and differed with him (the Atty. Gen.) on that question. He alluded to the extension of the privileges of the Land Purchase Bill by the late Government, and the purchase of the Cunard Estates under its provisions, effected without any material sacrifice—in proof of which he quoted the credit of the Colony. True, he said, commercial embarrassments were felt, but that was not attributable to the purchase of Proprietary lands, but the result of over-trading.

Hon. Mr. McANULTY supported the views of the hon. Mr. Haviland, and was also of opinion that money could not be obtained in England for the purposes in question, on terms that could prove any other than disastrous to the interests of the Colony.
Hon. Mr. DUNCAN said the Treasurer's Books up to the 1st of this month, would show the favorable position in which the Financial affairs of the Colony was left by the late Government, considering the heavy drain on its resources by the Purchase of the Cunard and other Estates. He expected to hear that the Land Question would now be finally settled by the Tenant League; but it would appear that the great object of those who pretended so much sympathy with that movement was to get into the House of Assembly, and now that their ambition was gratified, he was inclined to believe but little mention would be made of that organization.
Hon. Mr. Howland, in replying to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, alluded to the sentiments published in the *Islander*, the organ of the Conservatives, in 1843, expressive of the opposition of that party to the principles of the Land Purchase Act, and read extracts from that paper condemnatory of the actions of the Liberal party who introduced that measure. He spoke of the crippled state of the trade of the country as the result of the mode adopted for payment of the Cunard Estate—the purchase of which, he was given to believe, would fall at least ten thousand pounds short of being a self-paying transaction.

Mr. Brecken.—The depression of trade was felt to some extent previously to the purchase of the Cunard Estates, and no doubt the withdrawal of so large a sum as that purchase involved from the ordinary channels, tended to increase that depression. If a loan for the payment of Proprietary lands could be obtained on reasonable terms, he could see no objection to the measure.
Mr. McNeill replied to the remarks of the hon. Mr. Duncan, touching the motives alleged to the friends of the Tenant League movement. Had that hon. member, he said, fairly investigated the motives which actuated the supporters of that organization, he would have arrived at very different conclusions.
Hon. Mr. Laird said that the soil of any Colony should be its capital; that was not the case with this Island; it was, therefore, he thought that funds should be obtained to relieve its financial difficulties.
Mr. Peter Sinclair observed that he had listened to the first part of the debate on the paragraph in the Address under consideration. It was very evident that the Land Purchase Act was the most practical and efficient means ever adopted for the settlement of the land question, and the present leader of the Government was entitled to the credit of introducing that measure. He concurred with the remarks of the hon. Attorney General in relation to the objections to the Banks as the result of withdrawing the circulating medium to pay for purchased estates. He commented on the great advantages of banking accommodations to farmers, who gave joint notes, and getting discount, were enabled to purchase their flour and other supplies at a saving of 25 per cent. He repudiated the allusion of the hon. Mr. Duncan in reference to the Tenant League, and favored the borrowing of money on terms as proposed on the loan principle, by which relief of financial difficulties might be effected.
House adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
House in Committee resumed consideration of Address in answer to His Excellency's speech. The paragraph touching the purchase of Proprietary lands continued the subject of debate.
Hon. Mr. Davies addressed the Committee for upwards of one hour, during which he reviewed the principles enunciated by the several past, as well as present, political parties of the Colony in relation to the settlement of the Land Question. He spoke of the course which he pursued when he held the honor of a seat in the House of Assembly. He was at that time fully convinced that the Escheat party had the good of the country at heart, and he was free to confess that he gave them his support. He spoke of the forfeiture of original grants, which were but like cases, giving lands subject to certain conditions which were never fulfilled. He touched upon the introduction of the responsible Government, the conditions on which that system was adopted, the adoption of the Land Purchase Bill, the Land Commission, and Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, and contrasted the actions of the Liberal party with those of the Proprietary party, and contended that the former had always evinced a greater desire for the extinction of the leasehold system than did the Conservatives, who, he said, had always been allied to the Escheat party. He had always entertained the belief that a Court of enquiry into past sessions of that Assembly, when such schemes were termed by the leaders of that party as delusive and visionary. Why, said he, should those questions, which, on the admission of the hon. Mr. Davies himself, were rejected by the people, be now resurrected, and considered in a manner in which the Land Commission was constituted, and showed that the failure of that measure was not the fault of the Conservative Government. The Tenant League, from the first, started with the openly avowed intention of resisting the law, and, as such, received the patronage and support of the hon. Mr. Davies, now a member of the Government. He (Mr. Brecken) then spoke of the illegal actions of that League, leading to the necessity of bringing troops to the Island to subdue it. He expressed his regret that financial difficulties prevailed, for the removal of which he would gladly assist, by lending his support to any feasible remedy that might be suggested.

Mr. George Sinclair said, that comparing the different actions, and reviewing the past policy of parties, would not prove satisfactory to the people. He had listened with great attention, and his opinions expressed on each side touching the proposed measure, and believed it to be the duty of the Government to provide means to meet emergencies.
Mr. Howat agreed with the remarks of the last speaker, (Mr. G. S.) and hoped some definite plan would shortly be submitted. He wished to make one remark touching the necessity of a measure by which the principles of the Land Purchase Bill might be extended to all classes of tenants. It would be more equitable in operations if its provisions were more general and compulsory.
Mr. Prowse said, when hon. members on the Government side of the House were in opposition, it was but reasonable to expect a reply. When the political conduct of both parties for the past 16 years was compared, he would ask who did most for the relief of the tenantry? The purchase of the Worrall Estate, compared with that of the Belfast property, was, he said, sufficient to show the efficient manner in which the Conservatives transacted the public business. In proof of the impartial manner in which the Land Commission was conducted, he instanced the fact that the present hon. Attorney General (Mr. Hensley) was employed the Attorney.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said he had taken ample notes of the debate, but would reserve them for another occasion. He could not, however, but remark that the speech of the hon. Mr. Davies had reminded him of the field days in the Sessions of 1855 and 1856, when the hon. Mr. Howland, now leader of the Government, of which the hon. Mr. D. is a member, denounced, as visionary, the Will of the Wisp policy of the Escheat party. He expected, when the hon. member (Mr. D.) rose in his place, that some new platform would be propounded by him, but, instead of that, he observed that it was a rehearsal of his past political career which that hon. member had reproduced.
The paragraph of the Address under debate was then unanimously adopted.
The subject of the petition for a better system of Education was then read, when, on motion, it is adopted.
The hon. Leader of the Opposition said that surely the acting leader of the Government (hon. Mr. Hensley) might at least foreshadow the policy of the Government on that important question. He was, however, willing to wait till the hon. Col. Secretary (Mr. Coles) took his seat, which he presumed was the cause of deferring any debate thereon for the present.
Hon. Mr. Hensley, in reply, observed that the whole subject affecting the educational

interests of the people would be submitted, with the view of adopting measures for its advancement. It was not, however, necessary at the present stage of the proceedings of the House, and especially in the absence of the hon. leader of the Government, to enter into any debate on the question.
Mr. Brecken presumed the policy of the Government would be to pay School Teachers' salaries entirely from the Treasury. He was willing to lend his assistance to any measure tending to advance the interests of Education.
Mr. McLenan would not offer any factious opposition to that or any other question which the majority might submit for the general benefit of all classes. Had the Conservative party been returned to power, they contemplated to pay the Teachers their full salary from the Treasury; and he was of opinion that that desirable change could be effected without increased taxation, as the revenue, with judicious management could afford it.
The 6th and 7th clauses were read and adopted. The 8th clause elicited some remarks.
The remaining portions of the address were read and adopted after which the whole address as reported from the Committee was agreed to without amendment.
The address was then carried, ordered to be engrossed, and a Committee appointed to wait on His Excellency to know when he would be pleased to receive the same.
House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 24.
At the hour appointed, the House waited on His Excellency with the Address, and, on their return, his honor the Speaker reported the reply, which is as follows:—
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:
I thank you for your Address. You may rely on my hearty co-operation in your endeavors to promote the welfare and prosperity of this Island.
Hon. Mr. Howland presented the report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum for the past year.
Ordered to be laid on the table.
Hon. Attorney General, from the Committee on expiring laws, submitted a Bill to continue the law relating to the rules and limits of Jails in this Island.
Read a second time, and submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. G. Sinclair in the chair.
After a good deal of discussion, the Bill was reported agreed to and ordered to be engrossed.
Hon. Attorney General presented the Public Accounts, as classified by the Auditors, for the year ending January 31st, 1867.
Ordered that said Accounts be referred to the special Committee appointed to examine and report thereon.
Hon. Attorney General submitted the Blue Book for the year ending 1865. Also several Banks Returns for the past year.
On motion of the hon. Mr. Davies, a supply was granted to Her Majesty.
Hon. Attorney General delivered a message from His Excellency, transmitting Correspondence and Despatches relating to the purchase of the Estate of the late Sir Samuel Cunard, the issue of Fishing Licenses, expenses in connection with Troops, and Despatches on the subject of the Union of the British North American Provinces.
The Bill relating to the rules and limits of Jails was then read a third time and passed.
House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 25.
House in Committee on the report of the Committee on expiring Laws. Mr. George Sinclair in the chair.
Several resolutions were reported agreed to, and progress was reported.
Hon. Attorney General presented to the House the estimates of the Expenditure of the Government for the current year, which was read and laid on the table.
The House then went into Committee of Supply.
The following are some of the items of expenditure for the current year, viz:—
Roads and Bridges, £5,000 0 0
Special Grants for Roads and Bridges, 4,000 0 0
Special Grant for Macadamizing part of Main Post Roads within Charlottetown and Royalty, 250 0 0
Ditto for Georgetown & Summerside, 200 0 0
Hon. Attorney General presented a Bill to diminish the delay and expense of proceedings in the Court of Chancery in this Island.
Received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.
House adjourned.
AFTERNOON SESSION.
Hon. Attorney General delivered a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting a copy of the Report of the Inspecting Field Officer of Militia for the past year, which, with an accompanying extract of Military estimates for the current year, was ordered to be laid on the table.
The House then went into Committee of Supply. Mr. Bell in the chair.
On motion of the hon. Attorney General, a resolution granting and placing at the disposal of the Government the sum of £5,000 for Roads and Bridges, was, after some remarks from the hon. leader of the Opposition, replied to by the hon. Attorney General, agreed to.
Hon. Leader of the Opposition in the course of his remarks on the above grant, said that the paragraph in His Excellency's Speech touching the construction and management of Highways would lead to the belief that some new principle was to be adopted relative to that branch of the public service.
Hon. Attorney General, in reply, said that the intention of the Government was to obtain reliable information as alluded to in His Excellency's Speech, preparatory to any future Legislative enactments relative to the subject of road-making, with the view of arriving at a better system than yet obtained in this Colony.
A resolution granting the sum of £2,500 for the Military expenditure of the Colony for the current year, was submitted by the hon. Attorney General. A short debate took place on this resolution, after which it was agreed to.
The Resolution granting £600 to encourage Steam Communication with Souris, Georgetown, and Murray Harbor, was then read.
The subject of Steam Communication was then fully debated, and the desire generally expressed was, that the day was not far distant when Steamers would ply to many of the harbors of this Island hitherto destitute of such facilities.
Hon. Mr. Duncan said the sum was too limited for the services required.
Hon. Attorney General said that the hon. member (Mr. Duncan) moved last session for a better system of Education, and that he was now directed the attention of the Committee to the fact that a wharf was about to be built at Crapaud, in order that the Steamer on the route between Charlottetown and Shediac might call at that place weekly. With the hope that a grant would shortly be obtained to encourage that connection, he would vote for the resolution now before the Committee.
After some debate on the question generally the said Resolution, granting £600 for the purpose aforesaid, was agreed to, and read.
A Resolution granting the usual salaries and allowances provided by Statute, was also agreed to.
House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 26.
Hon. Mr. Davies presented the petition of John Connon, and others, relating to changing the time for the running at large of Hares. A Committee to report thereon was referred to Committee to report thereon.
According to order, six resolutions, agreed

to in Committee of Supply yesterday, were then reported and severally agreed to.
The Bill to diminish the delay and expense of proceedings in the Court of Chancery in this Island, was read, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.
Hon. Mr. Colbeck in the chair.
After some explanatory remarks from the hon. Attorney General, touching the nature of the Bill, it was reported agreed to.
House adjourned.
A. McNEILL, Reporter.

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1867.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

ENGLISH NEWS.

The English Ministry have had rather an anxious time of it about their Tory Reform Bill. The Liberals very naturally dislike to see Lord Derby outdo them in liberality. Lord Derby himself and his party have undertaken the business of Reform, not because they had any liking for it, but because they saw very clearly that if they did not introduce and carry a Reform Bill, they would not be permitted to hold the reins of Government. The work was very disagreeable certainly, but since it must be done they might as well set about doing it, as to permit their rivals to strengthen their cause by passing a measure which has been demanded by the nation in a manner that showed very plainly that refusal meant revolution. The task is a difficult one to perform. How Lord Derby and Mr. D'Israeli are going to please, first the Tories, to whom they belong, next the Adullamites or discontented Liberals, and lastly the millions of the unfranchised, is very hard to tell. However, Englishmen know better than any other nation in the world what the word 'compromise' means. If every party and every section of every party in England insisted upon carrying out its views, and would not bate a single inch to any other party, then matters there would very speedily come to a dead-lock. But the strong common sense and the political education of English statesmen have taught them the necessity of forbearance and conciliation. By the consent, and even the assistance of his political opponents, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been enabled to get his Bill safely through the two first stages of its existence, and we think that by the exercise of the same virtues by all parties, he may be able to carry it through the remaining stages. The Bill certainly does not give the Radicals all they want—which is manhood suffrage—but it will add more than half million of voters to the very limited constituency of Great Britain, which is, in our opinion, a very great stride towards the attainment of their desires. Whether the English people will be happier or more prosperous for this concession of political power to the masses, is a question for the answer to which many persons look forward with anxious expectation.

Matters look somewhat threatening in Spain. It appears that the 'Tornado' is not the only British vessel with which the Spaniards have been taking unwarrantable liberties. They have seized a vessel called the 'Queen Victoria', on the high seas, pretending to think her a smuggler, and have detained her for upwards of a twelvemonth. Lord Stanley, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has demanded some explanation time and again, and has received shuffling unsatisfactory answers. He has, at last, had some very plain talk with the Spanish Government, which talk it seems has brought the Spaniards to their senses. When a British Minister writes the following language to a Foreign Power, he means to follow it up by acts equally significant:— "Her Majesty's Government must at once insist on the immediate restoration of the ship and cargo or their full value and a proper pecuniary indemnity to her captain and crew, accompanied by an expression of regret addressed to Her Majesty's Government, for the outrage committed on the British flag." This demand admits of but one answer. The Spaniards must either comply or fight. It strikes us that they will not fight just now. We hear very little about the "Tornado." The Spaniards evidently consider that they were justified in seizing that vessel, and it seems to us that the British authorities are not very sure but what they were partly right. It is not likely that there will be a war between Spain and England about either of these vessels, threatening as matters appear just now.

The Emperor of the French, in true old-fashioned Imperial style, is now treating for the purchase of a city and territory with a population of two hundred thousand souls. The offer of this property is Holland, and the price is said to be a hundred million of francs, or upwards of four millions of pounds sterling. There are, however, two or three parties who think that they ought to have a word or two to say in the matter. There are first the two hundred thousand poor souls whom it is proposed to sell like so many sheep. These very naturally take exception at being disposed of in this very summary and undignified manner. If they are going to change rulers they not very unreasonably consider that they ought to have some choice in the matter. They, poor people, have no doubt their likes and their dislikes, their partialities and their prejudices, and perhaps, like ourselves in this much more insignificant little place as regards population, they entertain some modest ideas of their own importance, and have cherished a few notions about the rights of man. If they feel themselves ill used in being thus bought and sold like so many irrational creatures, we can hardly blame them. If the case were our own, we would be apt to make a little noise about it, and if we had a strong and friendly neighbor, it is not at all unlikely that we would invoke his aid to prevent what we would no doubt consider so foul an injustice being done us. Such a neighbor Luxembourg has.

One too who is not only a neighbor, but a near relation, and who has for some time been her strong protector. Prussia is that friend, relation and protector, and if Louis Napoleon completes his purchase and takes possession of his little estate, without having to strike some pretty hard blows, we are a good deal mistaken. Both Prussia and France continue arming and survey one another with suspicious and unfriendly glances. There is some talk about Austria taking part in the coming fray side by side with Prussia. This is not very likely. Italy, too, it seems is furnishing her arms, and manufacturing more. The millennium appears farther off by a great deal to-day than it did twenty years ago. Then we flattered ourselves that men were becoming too wise to fight—that weapons of war would in a hundred years or so be found nowhere but in the museums of antiquaries, and that the trade of man-killing would take its place beside other obsolete arts; but alas for our fine visions. Here in the nineteenth century, with all our improvements in science and art, in spite of our much vaunted progress, we have not sense enough to keep ourselves from cutting our neighbours' throats, though in doing so we do irreparable injury to ourselves. Are men growing wiser or better? We fear not.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The deserving poor of this country are placed in a very peculiar, and in a very miserable predicament. There is no permanent public provision made for the relief of necessitous persons in either Town or Country. Almost their sole resource is private charity. It is true that an annual grant is made to some of the poor by the Legislature, but the pittance given in each case is so small that it does not afford any material aid to the comparatively few individuals named, and it gives no assistance whatever to numbers of unfortunate needy persons—men, women and children whom it is the duty of the public to provide for. A stranger would pronounce us a peculiarly fortunate or a peculiarly unfeeling people when he came to know that in this Island we have not a single poor house, orphan asylum or other institution, affording shelter and sustenance to the homeless and the indigent. Are we so very fortunate as a community as not to have in any considerable number people who are so poor as not to be able to supply themselves by their unaided exertions, with necessary food and clothing? Or are there many whose chief means of support is the charity of the pious and the benevolent? We believe that real unavoidable want is a rare thing in this Island. Most of those who are so very poor as not to be able to procure for themselves and their families the necessaries of life, are either vicious or indolent, or, to speak more correctly, are both vicious and indolent. Though this is true in the main, still there are, in these hard times particularly, quite a number of persons—who, by no fault of their own, find themselves placed in such a deplorably destitute condition that it is the duty of those whom God has blessed with a sufficiency of the good things of this life to make provision for.

Besides, the truly charitable man does not enquire too closely into the errors and vices that have brought the unfortunate perishing and starving creature into the state in which he finds him. He relieves the sufferer's wants and leaves it to others to judge and punish him. But the vicious man generally drags a number of helpless unoffending beings into the misery and suffering that it is but right perhaps that he himself should endure. And who is so sternly virtuous as to refuse relief to the most pitiable of human creatures, merely because it is their great misfortune to be connected with one who is too wicked and too indolent to labour for their support? It is the bounden duty of every Christian man and woman to relieve want wherever he knows it to exist. We believe that it is best both for the poor themselves, and for the community, that their necessities should be supplied out of a public fund to which all are compelled to contribute according to their means. But where this fund is not provided there is the greater necessity for people in their private capacity to make efforts and sacrifices in order to keep their fellow mortals from suffering from hunger and nakedness. We are much gratified to find that this principle has been recognized by the ladies of Summerside. They have formed themselves into a society to receive the contributions of the charitable and to dispense aid to the most necessitous and deserving poor, irrespective of their religious belief. The Bye-Laws of this society are now being printed. They being rather long for insertion in detail, it will be sufficient for all practical purposes to state that its funds are derived from three sources.

A fee of one shilling and three pence payable by members on admission. A subscription of at least three shillings per quarter on the part of gentlemen who acquire thereby certain privileges. Contributions in money, materials for clothing, provisions, etc., solicited in the place by a committee of ladies.

The object of the society is to afford relief as far as its means permit, to any deserving poor persons or families in Summerside or its immediate vicinity, irrespective of religious persuasion.

Applied for aid is to be made known through some member who will have it considered as soon as possible.

Meetings of the lady members are held on each alternate Wednesday, at Wagh's Hall, from two to five o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of cutting out or making up of clothing for the poor.

The kind-hearted projectors and supporters of this society deserve to succeed in their pious undertaking. The work is a truly noble one, and one which true Christians of every creed will deem it a privilege to further to the utmost extent of their means. Much good has already been done through the instrumentality of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, and we believe and hope that it will be the means of doing still more in the future.

The Bye-Laws will in a short time be on sale at Bertram's Book Store, for the use of the members and the public.

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