

them, or alter them. He (Mr. Douse) had been obliged to act with rigour, in cases of some refractory tenants, who, deluded by the promises of the agitators, withheld their rent, and dared him; but they were sorry enough afterwards that they had ever known an agitator, and confessed that the chief part of their evils flowed from that source. It was agitation that set the proprietors against the tenantry. Many of the proprietors were so disgusted with the conduct of the people in P. E. Island, that they wished they had no estates on the Island; while many of the tenantry have confessed, that were it not for the escheat agitation, they could have easily paid their rent; so that it has been a great injury to both parties. Let us do as the hon. Speaker advises. Let us make an appeal to the proprietors, for it was in consequence of agitation that the proprietors set their faces against the Island. He would advise the House to shew no ill feeling against the proprietors, and they would take the Island by the hand; and when the landlord and tenant pulled together, he had no doubt the Island would flourish. If emigration continue, there will not be much spare land on the Island in a few years. Let us all join, and petition the proprietors, unanimously and peaceably, and then we may expect it will be well received.

Mr. MONTGOMERY considered that before we went into the State of the Colony, we should summon before us such witnesses as would bear us out in any representations we might make on the present state of the Island. He was convinced of this from the mass of printed documents lying on the table before us, got up in order to disprove the Resolutions of the last House on a similar occasion. Let us profit by the example, and found our Resolutions on such evidence as cannot hereafter be contradicted. He would agree to the motion, as he had heard nothing to alter his opinion of the necessity of sending for witnesses to disprove a report that is spread from those documents, that the tenantry are able to pay their rents. Let us examine those gentlemen, in order to get a true state of the country before us, and then we will see what is best to be done.

Mr. COOPER said the hon. the Speaker asserts the laws cannot interfere with the tenure of the leases. But we are all aware that the Grants were forfeited, and if justice was done to the tenantry, the lands would have been long since settled. False hopes were also held out to the settlers, by Lord John Russell's despatch about a "conventional settlement of the tenantry" (Here the hon. gentleman read Lord J. Russell's despatch relating to the settlement of the tenantry.) What sort of conventional settlement was it, to take the settlers bond and warrant for arrears of back rent, and if they are unable to pay them, to be driven from their homes in the latter end of their days? It seems we cannot make any law respecting the tenure of land, but by the consent of the proprietor, but we should follow the constitution. (Mr. C. here read some document, neither the wording or purport of which we could understand.) This document states we cannot interfere with the tenure; but reinvesting the land in the Crown would be the most just and expeditious mode of settling the question. (A laugh.)

Mr. DOUSE said he was sorry to hear such sentiments expressed as those of the last speaker. What use is it to be talking about what cannot be attained. This letter of Lord Stanley's is a point blank refusal of Escheat. As to what was proposed in Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy's Circular, it was impracticable. He (Mr. Douse) gave Sir Charles very little credit for that letter; the statements contained in it were not correct. It referred to the vicinity of Charlottetown, and never could be made to apply to the country generally. It was a well known fact that no poor man would be able generally to do as was represented by that letter. He was also sorry to see the unfavourable impression his letter would be likely to make with regard to the late House, had as they were. If the House had voted his £1000, he thought it would have had a powerful effect in altering the statement. His Circular was the cause of much mischief among the Escheaters; it raised false hopes, and fostered agitation, and was afterwards found to end in disappointment.

Mr. MACINTOSH said, we are unanimous in acknowledging that something should be done to relieve the distress of the people; but what that something is, is the question. One remedy is, they are told, to pay rents; but the people have nothing to pay rents with. They are, therefore, to be driven out of the country over the cliffs, like bears, into the sea. That won't do neither. We wish to get evidence to contradict statements sent home in an underhand way. It is an acknowledged fact, that the rent can't be paid. What is the remedy? Why, pay your rent. He was tired of agitation; all he wished for was to do justice between man and man; and until that was done, he was sure agitation would continue. Let us get evidence, and then the facts will be proved, and he trusted hon. members would support the motion.

Mr. YEO remembered that a petition was once got up in his part of the country to beg some favour from the proprietor; but from some cause it was not sent on to him. When he came round, about two years afterwards, the petition was shown him, and all who had signed he relieved, and even some of those who had paid him he reimbursed; he even went round, and gave money to those in distress. He forgave arrears of rent, he also took back such bad land as was unfit for cultivation. But those who had not signed, and were opposed to him, he knew them not. In his neighbourhood, he did not know that much distress existed. He knew of only one who had been distressed on for rent. When he was last home, some tenants promised to meet an agent, but being misinformed respecting some measures under the consideration of the House, they returned without seeing him. He thought we were as good judges ourselves of the state of the Colony, as those persons who are designed to be summoned by the hon. member (Mr. Rae). If we do not take proper measures, it will all end in smoke. He knew persons who were on the land thirteen or fourteen years, and have yet paid no rent. It is no use to go to harsh measures—mild ones are best.

Mr. SPEAKER was very glad to hear the hon. member for King's County (Mr. Macintosh) say he was tired of agitation. He never remembered to have seen him half so good humoured as he was in his life; while speaking on the subject he was smiling all the time he addressed the chair, and from this circumstance he trusted they would be on more friendly terms in politics than was heretofore the case. He would recommend to the Committee to follow up the Resolutions with a petition to His Excellency to lay the state of the Colony before Her Majesty's Government. Sir George Seymour might be of great service to our cause, as he possesses great influence with the proprietors. Let those who formerly differed from us now join us, and let us be unanimous for once; and if these gentlemen join us, we will see what we can do when united. We will pay them the compliment by joining them next year in any measure they propose for the good of the country. They had large majorities for three or four years past; yet nothing succeeded for the general good of the country. Let us try what we can do; we would all rejoice at any amelioration that could be effectually applied to the Colony. Now, as to those persons named in the list, not one of them could tell us anything more about the state of the Colony than we knew ourselves; and he did not expect any more information from them; there is not one of us but knows the situation of the tenantry as well as those gentlemen on the list; and he thought it would cast a stigma on the veracity of the giving anything but a true statement of the present situation of the country. He would not wish that such an idea should get abroad; besides the unnecessary expense such an examination would entail on the country, to serve no purpose. Let us detach those who give short leases, and screw down the tenantry, from those who, on a friendly representation of the hardships under which the settlers labour, would willingly join in mitigating them; and it is only by petitioning them, we can hope to prevail on them to do away with those 40 years' leases, back rents and other hardships complained of. The representations sent home of the value of land were highly exaggerated, as applying to the Island at large. Suppose £500 had been offered for a piece of land near Charlottetown, for a specific purpose, this should not be taken as a criterion of the value of land all over the Island. He concluded by assuring the Committee he was very sanguine of a successful issue to their application if they were themselves unanimous.

(To be concluded in our next.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 2.

A message was received from the Council, acquainting the House that they had agreed to the amendments made by the House to the Landlord and Tenant Bill.

The Hon. J. S. Macdonald, from the Committee to whom was referred the Petition of divers Inhabitants of Lots 29 and 30, praying for an alteration of the law relating to distress for rent, reported a bill, as prepared by the Committee—second reading on Tuesday.

The House again proceeded to consider Petitions.

The Petition of divers inhabitants of Charlottetown, praying for a grant, in aid of individual subscriptions, towards the construction of a wharf at the end of Pownall Street, was referred to the Hon. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Longworth, Mr. Cooper, the Hon. J. S. Macdonald and Mr. Yeo, to examine the same and report thereon.

The Petition praying for a grant towards the construction of a wharf at the end of George Street, and Mr. Tremain's letter, offering, for a pecuniary consideration, to carry the wharf partially built by him out to the channel, were referred to the same Committee.

A number of Road petitions were referred to the Members for the different counties.

The Bill to repeal the Acts for the summary trial of common assaults and batteries, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof, was, according to order, read a second time.

Mr. Rae moved, that a parliamentary paper on the affairs of this Island, printed by order of the House of Commons, and forwarded by Joseph Hume, Esq., M. P. late agent of the House of Assembly, to Mr. Cooper, speaker of the late House, be referred to the Committee on the state of the Colony. Carried, Yeas 12; Nays—Messrs. Palmer, Yeo, Wightman, Cambridge, Thornton, J. S. Macdonald, Hudson, Bearist—8.

Mr. Cooper moved, that Mr. Hume's written correspondence, laid before this House on the 27th January, be referred to the same Committee.

This was opposed, on the ground that they were wholly irrelevant to the matters proposed to be considered in the Committee on the state of the Colony, and could have no other tendency than to lead to endless discussions upon extraneous subjects.

Mr. Coles said, he had voted for the Parliamentary papers being referred, but saw no good that could be derived from entering upon the consideration of the papers now moved for. He must therefore oppose the motion.

The motion, however, ultimately prevailed, the division being—

For the motion—Messrs. Cooper, Montgomery, Macgregor, Dalziel, Fraser, Rae, D. Maclean, A. Maclean, Dingwell, D. Macdonald, Macintosh—11.

Against it—Messrs. Thornton, Palmer, Cambridge, Yeo, Wightman, J. S. Macdonald, Bearist, Hudson, Coles, Douse—10.

The remainder of this day was spent in Committee on the Assault and Battery Bill.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3.

The House again resolved itself into a Committee on the assault and battery Bill. On the House resuming, the Chairman reported that the Committee had gone through the bill, and made several amendments thereto. Amendments agreed to, and bill ordered to be engrossed.

The bill, after repealing the present Acts, provides for the establishment of four Courts in Prince County for the trial of assaults and batteries; namely, at Cascumpec, St. Eleanor's, Bedaque and Malpeque,—four in Queen's County, viz. at Charlottetown, Orwell Ferry Point, Campbelltown and Sable; and three in King's County, viz. at Georgetown, Souris and St. Peter's—each Court to be composed of at least five Justices resident within the County where the Court is to be held, three of whom shall be a quorum. The Courts are to be held quarterly, but may be adjourned from day to day. Lesser offences, where the fine incurred shall not exceed forty shillings, exclusive of costs, nor the imprisonment be more than two months, may be tried before one Justice of the Peace; but if the offence be deemed of a more serious nature, the Justice shall bind over the parties, witnesses, &c. to appear before the quarterly Court. Appeal may also be made from the decision of any such Justice to the same Court. The offenders tried before the said quarterly Court to be subject to and suffer such fine and imprisonment, or both, as the Court shall award, provided the fine does not exceed Twenty pounds, nor the imprisonment the term of nine months. No imprisonment to be added where the fine shall exceed Ten pounds, but offenders are to be imprisoned when the fine is not paid. No presentment or indictment of any Grand Jury for Assault or Battery to be proceeded upon in the Supreme Court, unless such assault, &c. shall have been made with a felonious intent, or to obstruct any sheriff, constable, or public officer in the execution of his duty. The bill then goes on to establish fees and other regulations.

Mr. Palmer rose to call the attention of the House to the order of yesterday, for referring to the Committee on the state of the Colony certain letters which had been addressed by Mr. Hume, late agent to the House of Assembly in England, to the Speaker of the late House. They contained not one passage on which a Resolution could be founded; in short, it would be a waste of time to enter into any discussion respecting them. He would therefore move, that the order of yesterday be rescinded.

Mr. D. Maclean was at a loss to understand why such an anxiety was evinced in a certain quarter for the suppression of these letters. He suspected it was not altogether owing to their insignificance. He was prepared to show that they contained matter of very great importance.

Mr. Thornton remarked that if honorable members were so very anxious to give publicity to the letters, the public press was open to them.

Some members could view them in no other light than as private communications between Mr. Hume and the late Speaker.

A discussion followed, in which considerable warmth was manifested on both sides, and which may probably be reported at length hereafter. The motion for rescinding the order of yesterday was at length carried, by the casting vote of the Speaker, the numbers on each side being equal, viz.

For the motion—Hon. Mr. Palmer, Messrs. Cambridge, Thornton, Yeo, Wightman, Macaulay, Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Messrs. Hudson, Coles, Bearist, Douse.

Against it—Messrs. Cooper, Macintosh, D. Macdonald, Dingwell, Dalziel, Rae, Fraser, A. Maclean, D. Maclean, Macgregor, Montgomery.

The Act relating to Distress for rent, and to regulate the practice of the Supreme Court in cases of Replevin, was read a second time, committed, reported agreed to, with amendments, and passed to be engrossed.

The Hon. Mr. Palmer, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House a Petition of the Clergy, Magistrates, and other Inhabitants of Georgetown, to the Lieutenant Governor, and by His Excellency referred to the consideration of the House—setting forth the advantages that would arise from a more frequent and regular post communication between the Capital and Georgetown, and praying that measures may be adopted for its accomplishment.—Referred to Post Office Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Palmer, also, by command of His Excellency, laid before the House, a Petition of divers Inhabitants of this Island to the Lieutenant Governor, and by His Excellency referred to the consideration of the House—praying for a grant, in aid of individual subscriptions, towards the erection of a Bridge over Elliot River, opposite McEwen's. Referred to the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Macgregor, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Rae, to examine the same, and report thereon.

A Petition of divers Inhabitants of this Island was presented to the House by Mr. Coles, and the same was received and read; setting forth—that from recent proceedings in the Supreme Court, it appears, that the state of the law is extremely defective and inexplicit with reference to the opening and closing roads of communication, which, if not remedied by statute, will inevitably be productive of much inconvenience and confusion; and praying that an Act may be passed to prevent the re-opening of such roads as have been abandoned and closed for a definite period, unless by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Referred to Mr. Coles, the Hon. Mr. Palmer, and the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, to examine the same, and report thereon, by Bill or otherwise.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4.

Mr. D. MACLEAN presented a Petition from New London, to which, he said, upwards of 300 individuals had attached their signatures, and whom he was proud to represent. They knew their rights, and were determined to secure them, though now they were unjustly deprived of those rights. Many of those who had signed the petition were born in the Island, and notwithstanding what had been stated in this House of the distress of other Provinces, their wish was to emigrate to another part of America, where equal and just laws prevail. One part of the prayer of the petition was, that they be paid for some part of their improvements, to enable them to effect this object. He implored the House not to think lightly of the grievances of the Petitioners. The Petition having been read, the hon. member again rose, and inquired if hon. members had ever reflected upon what might be the result, if the grievances complained of were not removed. He looked upon the tenure of lease-

hold land as a political lever, wherewith this Colony may be dislevered from the British Empire, on the first sound of war. The system was alienating the affections of the people from the parent state, as fast as the most bitter enemy of our country could wish. He was fully aware of the delicate ground he was now treading on; he also knew it was the tactics of those who had caused this dissatisfaction to bawl out "disloyalty," when any hand draws aside the cloak that covers land-jobbing perfidy. He would, without referring to Webster, shew the House his view of the word loyalty. It was not, in his opinion, the same definition that a quibbling barrister might give it. To be loyal, means, to be true and faithful; and therefore a man's first loyalty is due to his family; and second, to that power which protects him in his enjoyments and comforts which the sweat of his brow has provided for them. He thought it his duty to state, that at this meeting, the greatest unanimity prevailed, and they all seemed to think they may as well die by the sword, in defence of their rights, as to linger out a life of misery approaching to starvation. A case might arise, as had been foreseen by Sir C. A. Fitz Roy, that the civil power might be resisted, if employed to assist in the collecting of arrears of rent. He would read the following extract from Sir Charles A. Fitzroy's circular to the proprietors, in 1837:—

And I may ask you, even now, how is it possible for you, under existing circumstances, to collect your Rents by ordinary means? If your Bailiff goes to distraint, it is not at all improbable that he may be resisted in the first instance by persons whom he cannot identify, and that when he returns with sufficient assistance to execute his distress, all tangible property may be carried off the premises. You cannot surely expect that, in the remote districts of this Island, the Government can be prepared at all times, and on all occasions, with an armed force to support your officers; or in other words, that the Government is to be at the expense of collecting your Rents.

It was reported, out of doors, that the Executive are prepared to enforce it by those means, if necessary. Seeing some members of the Executive Council present, he begged to inquire if such report was founded on fact—and would pause for a reply. After a short pause, the hon. member proceeded: Well, then, as no answer is given, he must conclude the report is erroneous. Most assuredly, such a step would be bad policy, and tend to strengthen the hands of the disaffected in the upper province. He would conclude, by submitting that on political grounds (to say nothing of humanity and equity), the prayer of the Petition merits the consideration of this House, and he would move that it be referred to the Committee on the State of the Colony.

Mr. PALMER said, he was at no loss to comprehend the purpose of the petitioners. The meeting at which it originated was one of those Will o' the Wisp affairs so easily got up by agitators and demagogues when they had a purpose to serve. And after all, the petition suggested no new mode of relief; nothing but what had been over and over again discussed. It had, however, afforded the hon. member an opportunity of enlightening the House with his definition of the term loyalty, and of reading an extract from Sir Charles Fitz Roy's letter to the proprietors—the letter which was hailed at the time as a flag of truce held out to the tenantry, although it was well known that it was strictly a private letter, and which, but for a more accident, would not have found its way into the public prints. As to the rumour that the Government were to send an armed force to assist in collecting the rents—"No," from Mr. Maclean—He (Mr. Palmer) understood the hon. member to say so, if he heard him aright—but indeed the hon. member speaks so indistinctly it was not easy to make out what he says. As to the rumour alluded to, he had heard nothing of it; nor would he have regarded it if he had, considering the quarter from whence it came. He had no objection to receiving the petition, as it prayed for nothing but what the House was ready to comply with.

Mr. D. MACLEAN regretted the learned member for Charlottetown was so dull of hearing. He could assure the House that he had nothing to do with the getting up of the meeting. It was occasioned, he understood, by the Solicitor General's sending about seventy or eighty writs into the district, chiefly, he believed, for arrears of rent. Previous to the breaking out of the American revolution, were not those the truly loyal, who apprised the government of the approaching danger, in order that they might adopt means to avert it. But there was a rational loyalty and an irrational. Irrational loyalty, he considered, was put down at Collodan—rational loyalty had placed Victoria's family on the throne. He did not wonder at the learned member for Charlottetown being puzzled to comprehend the term—for Mr. Ogden, the late Attorney General of Canada, had gone home to ask the Queen's ministers what it meant. For his part, when he looked to Canada, and saw men whose hands, he might say, were red with British blood, promoted to offices of honor and emolument, he could not help thinking that in British America loyalty and treason were convertible terms.

Mr. YEO said, it appeared from what had fallen from the hon. member who had presented the petition, that the meeting had been held in consequence of a great number of processes having been issued by the Solicitor General against the tenantry of one district; but this, like many other reports we frequently hear, was greatly exaggerated. From enquiries he had made, the fact turned out to be, that instead of sixty or seventy writs, there were not more than twenty. He had been informed that not above six distrains had taken place. What the petitioners would have the House to do more than the House intended to do already, he was at a loss to imagine.—Surely they do not wish us to do away with the leases they themselves have entered into.

Mr. COOPER was glad to see the petition so moderate. Some hon. members were fond of indulging in invectives against those whom they were pleased to designate as agitators; but it now appeared that the Honorable the Solicitor General was the greatest agitator amongst them, for his proceedings had caused this meeting to be held. He had no doubt that a remedy might have been found for the distresses of the people had a revestment of the lands in the Crown taken place. Those who had condemned us for recommending an escheat might yet find that something different from what they expect must be done.

Mr. COLES was decidedly of opinion that if the proprietors could be induced to receive their rents in produce instead of cash, it would operate most beneficially for the Colony.

Hon. J. S. Macdonald was not sent here to represent one class of the community more than another; he considered it his duty to do equal justice to all, and he thought he would best do this by supporting to the best of his ability the equal administration of the laws. He would support the motion for referring the Petition to the Committee on the state of the Colony—it would strengthen the resolutions which were now under consideration in that Committee.

Mr. RAE could not help remarking the avidity with which petitions of this kind were now laid hold of when they happened to coincide with the views of the majority.

The question for referring the petition was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. YEO introduced a bill to define what shall be deemed proof of title derived to land sold under the Land Assessment Act.

Mr. RAE introduced a bill to compel all claimants to land in this Island, to place their titles upon record in this Island.

A resolution was adopted by the House not to enter upon any new matter upon which a bill can be founded after Monday the 13th inst.

Mr. Cooper moved for leave to withdraw Mr. Hume's written correspondence which was laid by him before the House on the 27th January, with the exception of the letter addressed to the Speaker of the House of Assembly for the time being—which was ordered.

The rest of the day was chiefly spent by the House in Committee of Supply.

MONDAY, MARCH 6.

Mr. Thornton, from the Post Office Committee, presented their first Report, which is as follows.

Your Committee, who were directed to report on the increased rates of Postage between this Colony and the neighbouring Provinces, and also to report on the Post Office generally, beg leave to submit—That the attention of your Committee having been particularly drawn to the subject of the very general complaint of the increased

rates of Postage between this Colony and the neighbouring Provinces, they have endeavoured to make themselves acquainted with the instructions to the Officers in the Post Office Department under which these increased rates have been exacted; but your Committee regret to state that they have met with difficulty in obtaining such information, and to the refusal of the present Post Master to communicate fully on the subject as was desirable, in consequence of being his instructions (as stated to your Committee) to communicate any information without having first obtained permission so to do from the Deputy Post Master General in Halifax—thus clearly shewing to your Committee the want of secrecy in the management of that Department. Your Committee believe to be totally unauthorized, the wishes or practice of the Post Master General, in relation to the Imperial Government, and calls loudly for a resolution from the Legislature of this Colony, by which the Post Office Department has been maintained at a considerable expense, as will hereafter be shown.

The amount paid for the transmission of the Mail from this Colony, for the last five years, amounts to upwards of £15, while the receipts arising from Postage paid on all the Public Treasury is only £2,301 12s. 5d., the balance due to this Colony of £1321 3s. 7d., which your Committee consider, ought to be delayed until the General Post Office Revenue, but which now is a charge against the Post Office Establishment—amounting over which the local Government have heretofore permitted to exercise any control.

Previous to 1842, the Postage charged on single Letters between Halifax and Charlottetown was eight pence per annum; but under the present regulations, the rate of such Letters is increased to eleven pence per annum. In Winter, and by the Summer route, to nine pence per annum. Two last sums are exacted in Halifax Currency, which is the present rate or difference of Exchange, shows an increase of from 25 to 70 per cent; and the Postage to all the neighbouring Provinces is increased in a rateable proportion. In way of illustrating the grievance the Colony labours under, owing to these additional rates of Postage, we would refer to a single Letter from this Island to Kingston, Upper Canada, 2s. 5d., and if weighing one ounce, is charged at the rate of postage, while the Postage on a Letter from Kingston to any part of the United Kingdom is only 1s. 4d. Halifax Currency; and if not exceeding one ounce, is only charged at two rates of postage. The rates of Postage to Great Britain and indeed to all parts of the world, on Packet or Steam vessels, passing through the United Kingdom, are charged at a weight, while those posted between any of the British Colonies, North America or the United States, are charged according to the number of enclosures, without regard to weight, and therefore double and sometimes treble the amount exacted on Letters below half an ounce in weight—of which your Committee consider bears with great weight on the Inhabitants of these Colonies, particularly as it is when the liberal and enlightened policy of the Imperial Government has reduced the Postage throughout the Kingdom to almost a nominal rate.

Your Committee would further remark, that it appears to have been the practice heretofore to allow the transmission of the printed votes and other Parliamentary Documents to the Provincial Legislatures to be forwarded or introduced free of Postage; but by the present regulations, the charge made on such documents amounts to a prohibition of such charges on the Journals of the Legislature of this Colony, forwarded to the Government of Nova Scotia, year, has been rated at upwards of £14, and they remain, in consequence, in the Post Office there, and the Post Master of this Island is instructed to forward the Public documents of this Island, of any nature or description, even by the Inland Mails (the expense of which is exclusively borne by this Colony), without charging the rates of Postage thereon—which regulations your Committee cannot for a moment suppose to be in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, and only requires representation, to induce Her Majesty's Government to interfere, and remove the grievance complained of. Also the Post Master has received late instructions from the Deputy Post Master General in Halifax to exact Postage on all Newspapers forwarded from this Island to the neighbouring Provinces, which your Committee look upon as imposed, not for the purposes of Revenue, to defray charges of transmission (which could alone justify such a demand), but for the private emolument of a subordinate individual in that department, and which your Committee consider to be an application totally unauthorized by the Imperial Act, by which the Imperial Act of 1836, in consequence, in the Post Office there, and the Post Master of this Island is instructed to forward the Public documents of this Island, of any nature or description, even by the Inland Mails (the expense of which is exclusively borne by this Colony), without charging the rates of Postage thereon—which regulations your Committee cannot for a moment suppose to be in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, and only requires representation, to induce Her Majesty's Government to interfere, and remove the grievance complained of. Also the Post Master has received late instructions from the Deputy Post Master General in Halifax to exact Postage on all Newspapers forwarded from this Island to the neighbouring Provinces, which your Committee look upon as imposed, not for the purposes of Revenue, to defray charges of transmission (which could alone justify such a demand), but for the private emolument of a subordinate individual in that department, and which your Committee consider to be an application totally unauthorized by the Imperial Act, by which the Imperial Act of 1836, in consequence, in the Post Office there, and the Post Master of this Island is instructed to forward the Public documents of this Island, of any nature or description, even by the Inland Mails (the expense of which is exclusively borne by this Colony), without charging the rates of Postage thereon—which regulations your Committee cannot for a moment suppose to be in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, and only requires representation, to induce Her Majesty's Government to interfere, and remove the grievance complained of.

Your Committee observe, by the Imperial Act of 1836, in consequence, in the Post Office there, and the Post Master of this Island is instructed to forward the Public documents of this Island, of any nature or description, even by the Inland Mails (the expense of which is exclusively borne by this Colony), without charging the rates of Postage thereon—which regulations your Committee cannot for a moment suppose to be in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, and only requires representation, to induce Her Majesty's Government to interfere, and remove the grievance complained of. Also the Post Master has received late instructions from the Deputy Post Master General in Halifax to exact Postage on all Newspapers forwarded from this Island to the neighbouring Provinces, which your Committee look upon as imposed, not for the purposes of Revenue, to defray charges of transmission (which could alone justify such a demand), but for the private emolument of a subordinate individual in that department, and which your Committee consider to be an application totally unauthorized by the Imperial Act, by which the Imperial Act of 1836, in consequence, in the Post Office there, and the Post Master of this Island is instructed to forward the Public documents of this Island, of any nature or description, even by the Inland Mails (the expense of which is exclusively borne by this Colony), without charging the rates of Postage thereon—which regulations your Committee cannot for a moment suppose to be in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, and only requires representation, to induce Her Majesty's Government to interfere, and remove the grievance complained of.

Your Committee, under all the foregoing circumstances, deem it of importance for the Legislature of the Colony to address Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and a copy of this Report be forwarded to the Legislatures of the adjoining Provinces, with a view of drawing attention to the existence of the grievances arising from the present increased rates of Postage, and also to what your Committee consider the improper use and irresponsible delegation to the Deputy Post Master General of Halifax, which is, in its character, highly vexatious and oppressive, and of inducing those Legislatures to make a combined effort to remove them.

The Report was adopted, and the Speaker was requested to communicate a copy thereof to the Speakers of the Assemblies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respectively.

CHINA.—A letter which was recently received from China, contains some religious news which is of great interest and hope. It is written by a person in authority residing at present in the Chinese Province of Honan, and who is in every respect worthy of credit. The following is an extract:

"Lately, whilst the persecution against the Christians was most fiercely, there appeared in the heavens towards the north at two successive times, a large cross with the Redeemer's face. The sky was most clear and the heavens most serene, and the crucifix was most perfectly designed, was visible to all eyes, and was environed with a brilliant light. This appearance lasted at least for two hours each time, in the presence of the Catholics, but also of an immense multitude of Pagans, who were astonished at the sight. In other parts of the Province, had similar miraculous apparitions."

God grant that the period is approaching which was announced by one of the glorious Catholic Martyrs in Wang Tong-King in 1837! In presenting his head to the executioner he predicted that those countries who were persecuting knowledge and profess that Holy Faith which they were persecuting with so much barbarity.—Halifax Herald, Feb. 28.

MISSIONS TO CHINA.—The London Missionary Society, which nearly forty years since commenced a mission to China, and sent out Drs. Morrison and Milne, by whom especially by the former, the herculean task of translating the Scriptures into Chinese, and forming a Chinese English Dictionary, were accomplished, is about to send ten or twelve additional missionaries to that country. The Anglo-Chinese College, supported by this Society, at Malacca (distant 1,500 miles from China), is also to be moved to Hong Kong, together with the printing press and missionary apparatus; some of the missionaries will be stationed on that Island, and others will proceed to such of the Chinese cities, opened for commerce by the treaty of Peking, as may appear most eligible.

THE REV. PROFESSOR MACINTOSH.—We understand that this Reverend Gentleman has not accepted the call from the