

...that in which they see their tenants for...
...of the country at large, referred to the...
...of the proceedings in the late...
...of the Court, and, in support of his...
...of the Quit Rents will revive, both...
...of the present Session, quoted from that...
...of the following declaration, relative to the...
...of Mr. Thomson, the able counsel from...
...of the Government, on behalf of the tenantry:

...I maintain they are due, and I am sorry I have...
...to go into statistical information on this...
...of Your Excellencies decide upon...
...allowing proprietors a sum for the lands which...
...which are justly due by them should be deducted...
...from that sum. Beyond the shadow of a doubt...
...I think that Mr. Longworth—in his endeavour...
...to argue the argument of the Hon. the Leader of the...
...Opposition, touching the liability of the proprietors...
...to the exaction of Quit Rents, both prospectively...
...and retrospectively—to all appearance afforded...
...the House a good deal of amusement, mingled, per...
...haps, by a little surprise, when he declared that...
...that opinion of Mr. Thomson's, on which the Hon. the...
...Leader of the Opposition seemed to place so...
...much dependence, as affording a confirmation of his...
...views with respect to the claims of the Colony upon...
...the proprietors for Quit Rents, was merely an...
...assertion, made by him, (Mr. Thomson) in the...
...discharge of his duty as Counsel for the tenantry, and...
...was not, by any means, a declaration of a legal...
...opinion, on which he would stake his character as...
...a lawyer; and if that gentleman, as a lawyer, were...
...to be requested to give his opinion in writing...
...concerning the question of Quit Rents, and should...
...consent to do so, it would be found, he (the Hon. Mr. Longworth) believed, to be the very reverse...
...of that to which he gave utterance in his capacity...
...of Counsel for the tenantry before the Land Com...
...mission. It was the business of the Hon. and...
...learned gentleman, in substance, maintained, of...
...every lawyer who undertakes to plead a cause be...
...fore a legal tribunal, to advocate the cause which...
...he is retained to assert or defend, to the very ut...
...most of his natural and legal ingenuity and ability...
...but what he, sometimes, in such cases, advanced in...
...support of the views and interests of his clients...
...will differ widely from the legal opinions which...
...he really and truly entertained concerning the...
...questions and points in controversy, with respect...
...to that which had been his duty, merely as counsel...
...for the party by whom he was retained to speak in...
...Court. The declarations and assertions, made by...
...lawyers on such occasions, were not always to be...
...taken as genuine expressions of their legal opinions...
...It was very different, however, when a lawyer...
...gave his opinion "in writing." An opinion so...
...given was an opinion on the propriety and justice...
...of which depend his professional standing and rep...
...tation; and if he had either, it was highly impro...
...bable that he would imperil it by giving an opinion...
...which he was conscious would bear the test of...
...strictly independent and legal scrutiny.

...The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, with...
...sounding of sarcastic pliancy, observed, with...
...reference to this declaration of the hon. and...
...learned gentleman, Mr. Longworth, that certainly...
...he had never been very fond of law, or been...
...either of his own account or that of others, a...
...promoter of law-suits; his sentiments on that...
...score having always been tinged with a certain...
...degree of jealousy and suspicion. He had...
...hitherto, however, had only one eye open as to...
...the turnings and windings which it was possible...
...for lawyers to take; but the candid confession of...
...the hon. and learned gentleman had opened his...
...other eye, and he would, for the future, take...
...care to keep both open when any of their be...
...wildering practices were going on before him.

...The Hon. Mr. Hensley gave a rather different...
...explanation of the practice and duty of an ad...
...vocatus in a Court of Law. According to his...
...view thereof, the duty of the lawyer at the...
...bar, so far as it concerned his clients, did not...
...require either the attaining of any points of law...
...of legal precedents, or any course of pleading...
...which justice would be impeded or turned...
...aside by his proper course; but simply that he...
...should lay down the facts of the case, so far as...
...he was in possession of them, sustaining them as...
...he would be able to whatever evidence might be...
...at his disposal; and, having done so, he had fully...
...acquitted himself of his duty to his client; and it...
...was the duty of the Court and Jury to dispose...
...of the case, both as respects facts and law, con...
...cerning which it was their province alone to...
...decide.

...The Hon. Mr. Kelly, with reference to the...
...assertions made in the House, by honorable...
...members of the Government, or supporters...
...of the Government, to the effect that liberty...
...of the fee simple of their farms at 16 or 15...
...years' purchase would be a boon or a benefit...
...to the tenants generally, declared that such...
...assertions were altogether untenable. In the...
...District which he had the honor to represent, in...
...which there were more than one thousand tenants, he...
...was quite certain that not one of them would...
...consider it to be a boon to be allowed to purchase...
...at any such rate. By calculation, he found that...
...the purchase of a farm of 100 acres, at the...
...common rate of 25 1/2 Rs. 2d. per annum, for 15 years...
...would amount to 25 1/2 Rs. 2d. and, for 16 years...
...to 25 1/2 Rs. 2d. Now any man, said the hon. gen...
...tleman, who could purchase his farm at that...
...rate could surely turn his money to better account...
...by putting it out at an interest of 7 1/2 per cent...
...which could now readily be obtained for...
...money in almost every quarter of the Island. At...
...that rate, for the first sum, as a loan, he would...
...receive annually 25 1/2 Rs. 2d. and, for the second...
...he would receive 25 1/2 Rs. 2d. He would, therefore...
...like to know who would be the fool to borrow 25 1/2...
...Rs. 2d. on a grant of land for such a rate...
...who would expect to receive when such a loan...
...was a gain of at least 25 1/2 Rs. 2d. annually by...
...continuing to pay his rent, and putting out at...
...interest the amount for which he could purchase...
...his farm. On the other hand, observed the hon. gen...
...tleman, the tenant who is unable to pay his rent...
...and falls heavily into arrears, can never purchase...
...his farm for 15 years' purchase, and, therefore...
...if the proposal of the Delegates were accepted...
...tomorrow—but it never will be accepted—it would...
...prove nothing but a delusion and a humbug, and...
...be acceptable to no party.

...The Hon. Mr. Kelly, in commenting upon the...
...declaration of the Hon. the Leader of the Govern...
...ment, that in the event of its being found...
...necessary, through the intervention of the...
...military force to compel their submission...
...to the exercise of lawful authority, he would...
...not witness bloodshed among them, but would...
...at once leave the Island—which would be no...
...difficult thing for him to do, as he had often...
...been to take his route at an hour's warning—said...
...The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition had...
...threatened to stay the Island; and so he well...
...might, rather than stay to encounter the indignation...
...of the people, whom he and his confederates in the...
...Government had so completely humbugged in the...
...matter of the Land Question; and whom he had...
...told, with some singular assurance, after his...
...Land Commission, that his mission was to...
...settle the matter, and that he would...
...accomplish his mission in 15 days. This...
...country got on without him for many years; and...
...if he had been in Malta had not been...
...without him, that is, (Mr. Kelly) had no doubt...
...however, that as soon as the hon. gentleman...
...showed up in his political knapsack, he would...
...have no difficulty in finding a band among his...
...supporters to follow him to the tune of "The...
...Rogue's March."

...Such remarks as these could not be otherwise...
...than most unpalatable to the Government side...
...of the House; and the hon. member who had...
...given utterance to them, was accordingly most...
...severely rebuked by the Hon. Mr. Longworth for...
...having had the temerity to indulge in language...
...so completely opposed to the courtesy prescribed...
...by parliamentary usage.