Hon. Mr. Palmer a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid on the Table copies of the following Despatches:—No. 56, "transmitting suggestions to be borne in mind on re-enactment of an Act for raising a Revenue." No. 60, "requesting further information on the subject of an Act to enable the Controller of Navigation Laws to grant and issue Fishing Licenses to citizens of the United States for vessels built in Prince Edward Island and owned by them."

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, March 14.

Mr. HOVAT moved that a Bill to authorise the appointment of Hog Reeves be read a third time. The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

The House then resumed the consideration of the Bill to punish persons guilty of trespassing on orchards and gardens. After several amendments were made to the Bill, the Speaker took the Chair and the Chairman reported the Bill agreed to as amended.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN presented a petition of Alexander M'Donald, Harbor master and inhabitants of Lot 56, praying for a grant of £19, to pay Robert Howlett for the removal of a wreck from the harbor of Grand River, which was received and read and laid on the table.

DECIMAL CURRENCY BILL.

Mr. M'NEILL moves the order of the day, that the Bill to regulate the currency and the Decimal System of accounting, be read a second time, which motion passed, and the Bill was read a second time.

Mr. M'NEILL said—the Bill merely provides for a change from the present mode of accounting in pounds, shillings and pence: and, that after February first, 1862 accounts shall be kept in dollars and cents. The Bill is similar to the Act of Nova Scotia, which has given general satisfaction. The Decimal system has been adopted in all the North American Colonies, Newfoundland and P. E. Island excepted. If this Legislature would follow the example of those Provinces which have adopted this, I am satisfied a great boon would be conferred on this Island, and that its adoption would conduce very much towards the commercial prosperity of this Colony. The trade of this Island with the neighboring Colonies and the United States is now considerable; and it would be very desirable and be found beneficial to have an assimilation of the currency of P. E. Island to that of Nova Scotia. The Bill makes provision for past contracts, so nothing need be apprehended on that ground. If it be thought the clause for the protection of the tenantry be not sufficiently strong it may be made so in Committee, if it go to Committee. I hope, however, this question will be taken up dispassionately by hon. members on both sides. In Nova Scotia the Currency Bill was introduced by a member of the Minority, and he was cordially supported by both sides of the House.

Hon. Mr. YEO said he considered this Island in reference to the question before the House, did not occupy the same position as the sister Colonies, inasmuch as our currency was different. In his opinion it would operate against the tenantry, for their leases could not be altered to suit the charge. Were we situated as the other Colonies, he, Mr. Yeo, would not be opposed to any member bringing in a Bill of this kind; but, looking at the rental system which obtained in this Colony, he thought the change would be injurious to the tenantry of P. E. Island.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said he was pleased to hear the hon. member who had just spoken took so much interest in the tenantry. In reference to the Bill he would ask whether the sovereign would have the same value in this Province as in Nova Scotia, as it was stated that the currency of the two Colonies would be assimilated? As he understood it, there was a clause in the Bill for rendering the currency of this Colony in dollars and cents, and in that case no injury would accrue to the tenants so far as the rents were concerned. At the same time he could not perceive that the change would materially benefit this Island; and before he (Mr. Hensley) would feel justified in voting for the Bill, he would like to see that some permanent advantage would be likely to result from the adoption of the Decimal system of accounting.

Mr. DAVIES said he expressed himself in favor of the Bill when it was introduced last year, but was of opinion the country was not prepared for the proposed change. Since that it had been adopted in Nova Scotia, and in all probability he thought the system would be adopted here in the course of a few years at least. He thought it would be a great benefit to all these Colonies if their currencies were assimilated. If the Decimal system of accounting were adopted, it would save much labour in making calculations and keeping accounts. All scientific men adopted the Decimal system. Our trade with the United States was increasing, and its adoption in this Colony would only be a question of time. It would no doubt be found inconvenient for a short time, but it would only be for a short period.

Hon. Mr. COLES considered it would be better to defer the adoption of the new system till the Land question was settled, for if the rental system was continued the method of accounting in pounds, shillings and pence, had better be retained. Rents were now paid by the addition of one-ninth of the sum mentioned in the lease, and farmers, he though, would experience some difficulty in calculating in dollars and cents. Upon the whole, however, he was opposed to a change. It was not a sufficient reason in his opinion, for this Province to change its currency because the United States and some of the neighbouring Colonies chose to reckon in dollars and cents. One argumen advanced in favour of the new system was, that it enabled merchants to keep their accounts with less trouble; but he thought many of them had not so much business to transact just now, but what they might very well keep their accounts in the old style. He would ask what was to become of the old coppers when the new system would come into operation?

Mr. DAVIES—Send them to Newfoundland. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. COLES—Our no es too, would need to be re-issued, and new plates for that purpose would be very expensive. Further, our money would sink in value, if the currency of this Colony were assimilated to that of Nova Scotia. He (Mr. Coles) thought it preferable to postpone the adoption of the Decimal system till the rental system be abolished. He opposed the introduction of a change last Session, and would do so this one.

Mr. BEER said he was in favor of the Decimal system of accounting. Sooner or later the alteration would be effected. A little inconvenience might be experienced by different parties for a time, till people got into the way of reckoning by dollars and cents, and then it would be acknowledged to be the simplest method of calculating. No one would be injured by the change, for the scale to regulate past contracts and rents, etc., would prevent that. If considered necessary, two years might be allowed to elapse before the new system should come into operation.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said he felt inclined to support the Bill, and that he would have voted for it last year, had he been present. He could see no force in the arguments used by the hon. member from Port Hill, and the hon. member on his left, Mr. Coles, that the tenants would be put to some inconvenience by the change, and that it would be better to wait till the Commission on the Land question had given in their decision. If hon. members waited till that time should arrive, he thought they might make up their minds never to have the Decimal system introduced, at least, not during the life of any then present; for in his opinion the leasehold tenure would not be abolished by that Commission. Tenants would, so far as paying their rents were concerned, experience no difficulty in ascertaining the amount to be paid for the rent of their farms, in dollars and cents, for, upon the whole, they possessed as much intelligence as the mercantile portion of the community; neither were they inferior in that respect to their fellow colonists in the neighbouring Provinces. The Decimal method of reckoning was the readiest and easiest in use. An hon. member inquired what was to become of the old coppers, and he, (Mr. Whelan) would say if they were thrown into the sea, the loss would be but trifling, for that species of coin now in circulation would be a disgrace to any country. There could be little objection urged on account of the new plates, for they would not cost much. But the great advantage which would result from the change would be an assimilation of our exchange to that of the other Provinces. Then we would not be under the necessity of seeking from the Bank notes, or bills, when we wished to make remittances to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Our paper money at present was worthless in the neighbouring Provinces, but, by assimilation the currency to that of N. S., this inconvenience and drawback would be remedied, which would be one of the advantages that would result from the adoption of the Decimal system. He was not then prepared to express his views on the subject at length, but would support the measure.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said he was happy to say he would vote on the same side; for he thought it would be of essential service to the Government, as well as to private individuals, were the accounts of the Country kept according to the Decimal system. Our present system was one of the most intricate under the sun. Our trade with Britain was falling off, and the commerce between the neighbouring Colonies and the United States increasing, which was one reason why the method of accounting by dollars and cents should be adopted. Even in the old country the Decimal system had many advocates. A few years ago a Special Committee was appointed by the House of Commons for the purpose of testing the principle. Were the proposed system introduced in this Island, in the course of two or three years all parties, he had no doubt, would be so well pleased with the change, that they would wonder it had not been made at an earlier period. At present some were under the necessity of keeping their accounts in both systems; but it was time to dispense with the time wasting method of keeping accounts in pounds, shillings, pence and farthings. Last year he, (Mr. Haviland,) voted against the measure, and being skilled in that peculiar branch of political economy, but from the little knowledge he had since acquired on the subject, and believing the Bill to be a beneficial one, it should receive his support.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN made a few remarks in favor of the Bill, showing how inconvenient it was to make remittances to the United States or the neighbouring Colonies, and how advantageous it would be to this Island to have the currency assimilated to that of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH addressed the House at considerable length, and spoke against the Bill. Mr. Longworth said he opposed the measure last Session, for he conceived it was not sufficiently considered by hon. members on either side of the House, and the difficulties which he foresaw last year, likely to result from the passing of the Bill under discussion, were not removed from his mind by the hon. members whom he had just heard speak in its favor. He gave credit to the hon. member who introduced the Bill for his perseverance, as he had no doubt his object was to facilitate and increase the trade of this Colony; but he rather thought that the Bill in it's present form would not accomplish that object. Hon. members should consider what led at first to a depreciation in our currency when compared with that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—why an American or Mexican dollar in Halifax passed for 25s, 24s 4d, and 30s. The reason of the relative values of these coins being so different between N. S. or N. B., and P. E. Island, was because the balance of trade was against us; and this being the case it was found necessary to put upon these coins a nominal value, in order to retain a circulating medium in this Island, sufficient for commercial purposes. In all countries where the balance of trade was against them, the currency necessarily bore a higher nominal value than in those countries where it was in their favor; for, were the currency of each country of equal value, the circulating medium would be drained out of those countries which import more than they export. This was the reason why it was found necessary to put a higher nominal value on the currency of P. E. Island than what it bears either in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Such being the case he thought the Bill then before the House would, if it came into operation, produce an effect different from what some hon. members anticipated. So far as the Decimal system of accounting was concerned, it was no doubt the easiest and best method and much superior to the pound-shilling-and-pence system. But as the object of the Bill was to assimilate the currency of P. E. Island to that of the neighbouring Colonies he could not support it. Looking at the trade of the Colony he thought the Bill would operate against the country. The time would arrive, he hoped, when the resources of the Colony would become more developed, and when P. E. Island would be in a better position to adopt the measure now proposed. He (Mr. Longworth) was in favor of the Bill going into Committee, and of its being published, that the people might have an opportunity of discussing its merits. If favorably received it would be enough to pass it next Session. In other Colonies Bills of this description were never hurried through the Legislature, without having the public fully informed respecting their nature. As regarded past contracts, he thought the Bill was not sufficiently guarded; but that would be considered when in Committee on its details. After all, altering the nominal value of the currency of a country did not, and would not add anything to its wealth. If, however, the objections which he urged against the Bill becoming law, were removed, he for one would give way; but he was not then prepared to give it his support, in its present form.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON said he opposed the measure when first introduced, and that he had not yet heard anything advanced in its favor which would induce him to change his opinion, and induce him to support it. The principal argument in its favor was, that it would be an accommodation to traders and merchants; but, in his opinion, it would not be a benefit to the public generally, nor have the effect of facilitating trade were it to become law. It might be necessary for the other Provinces to have such a Bill become law, but the same necessity did not exist in this isolated Colony. Not one dollar more would come to this Island were this Bill to become law than is received under the existing system of accounting. [Mr. Thornton then read from the *Parliamentary Reporter* of last year a part of the speeches made on the Currency Bill, by Messrs. Wightman and Davies, showing that they considered last year that the Bill was unnecessary, and what necessity was there for them changing their views, for there was no more need of a change this year than there was in 1860.] These and other hon. members who spoke last year expressed their satisfaction with the present system. In his opinion, a change would create a great deal of confusion, and the people of this Island could easily count all their money in pounds, shillings and pence. When it was discovered that the people were prepared for the proposed change it would be time enough to adopt the Decimal system. He (Mr. Thornton) would oppose the Bill.

Hon. Mr. M'AULAY said it was patent to every one who had thought upon the question that there is but one reason for the depreciation of the currency of any country. Countries which import largely have remittances to make, and if these imports exceed the exports, the consequence was that the importer was obliged to fall upon the circulating medium in order to maintain his credit abroad. When he required to make a remittance he would go to a money changer and ask him for money which he could remit, and this money changer discovering that his money was more valuable, would demand a premium. Thus the currency of the country not negotiable abroad, became of less value than the currency of the country to which remittances was made. He (Mr. M'Aulay) considered it was needless to dwell at any length upon the subject. It was not shown that Nova Scotia had gained anything by the change. The best thing the Colony could do would be to import less and export more; but so long as the balance of trade remained against this Island, it made little matter what the currency might be. He opposed the measure last year, and would vote against the Bill this Session.

Mr. HOWAT entertained the same views on the subject which he did last Session; and he was opposed to the Bill going to Committee. He had spoken to several mercantile men on the question, and they were of opinion the advantages to be gained from the adoption of the Decimal System of accounting would not counterbalance the inconveniences to which many would be the subject by the change.

Adjourned. J. D. GORDON, Reporter.

FRIDAY, March 15.

Debate on Decimal Currency Bill resumed.

Mr. M'NEILL said it was surprising that this small Colony should be the only place on this continent, except Newfoundland, that had adopted the Decimal currency system. The hon. member, Mr. Yeo, had remarked that he thought the Bill would operate against the tenantry. This, coming from that gentleman, was rather an extraordinary expression of opinion. He (Mr. M'Neill) for one would be sorry to advocate any measure which might be the means of increasing the burdens of the tenantry; but he could not see that the Bill would operate in this way, as a clause might be introduced to guard against difficulties in respect to rent. He believed that if the sense of the people of this Island were taken on the measure, they would be found to be in favor of it from the East Point to the West Cape.

Hon. Mr. YEO entertained the same opinion on the question as he did last year. The Bill, if it became law, would cause expense to the Government and to the Bank, as new notes would have to be issued, and it would scarcely be a benefit to any one, for the most of the business of the Colony was with Britain. He believed that it would operate to the injury of the tenantry, though they might not think so.

Mr. CONROY did not understand what would be gained by going into Committee on this Bill, and taking up the time of the House with it, as it was fully discussed last year. Notwithstanding the statement of the hon. member, Mr. Yeo, he thought he had no sympathy with the tenantry. Sometimes it was convenient for that hon. gentleman to say that he was their friend; but at other times he appeared to care nothing about them. He (Mr. Conroy) would support the motion made by the hon. member, Mr. Coles, that the House go into Committee on the Bill this day three months.

Mr. DAVIES was in favor of going into Committee on the Bill. He had as yet heard nothing to alter the opinion which he had expressed yesterday. The hon. member for Port Hill thought the measure would be a disadvantage to the tenantry, and effect no good to any party; but as had been said by the hon. member who introduced the Bill, a clause could be introduced to guard against any difficulty with respect to rent. Of course, if the decimal system were adopted, it would cost the Government and the Bank a little, as they would have to recall their notes, and issue others in dollars and cents; but he (Mr. Davies) could not consider this as an objection if the introduction of the system would be a benefit to the country. The hon. member for Cardigan said that it would benefit no class of the community except the merchants; even though it should not, this ought to be considered a sufficient reason for passing the Bill. That hon. member also read extracts from speeches made last year by several parties in this House, and endeavored to show that they considered such a measure unnecessary then, and said there could be no more need of a change this year. He (Mr. Davies) was among the number to whom he alluded; but he could assure the hon. member for Cardigan that he had not changed his opinion in regard to the advantage of the decimal system; the only difference in his views was that last session he thought the time had not arrived for the change, but now he believed it had arrived, as the system had been adopted in Nova Scotia. In the neighbouring Provinces, the people did not know what value to set upon our notes at present, but if our currency was in dollars and cents, they would be able to tell, and might buy up our bills though at a small discount. Notwithstanding all that had been said respecting the balance of trade being against us, he thought if a fair calculation was made it would be ascertained to be very little now. [The hon. member here read an extract from the report of the Committee on Public accounts to corroborate his statement.] He was not aware of any single interest that would suffer by the introduction of the system. It would not injure the agricultural market, for it was not the currency that regulated the price of produce, but the state of the market abroad.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said when he spoke to the Bill last evening, he was not acquainted with its details. On looking over it, he observed that it was not so sweeping a measure as he was at first led to believe; all that it provided was that the Government officials be required to keep their accounts in dollars and cents. This being the case it would not interfere with private individuals. He was of opinion that the Treasury notes would not require to be called in; they might be allowed to pass, their value in dollars and cents being fixed. He thought the Government ought to have been consulted before the measure was introduced, as to whether they would be willing to carry it out in the public offices. He might vote for the Bill to go into Committee, but would not be prepared to vote for it altogether unless the Government expressed their willingness to carry it out.

Mr. COOPER thought that no alteration should be made in the currency until the Land question was settled.

Mr. SINCLAIR had listened attentively to the remarks made on the subject under consideration, but could not fully decide as to the advantage that would be gained by the Bill. Whether the currency of the Island was changed to dollars and cents, or allowed to remain as at present, he thought it would be very difficult to get our notes to pass in the neighboring provinces. He considered the measure premature, and thought it would bring confusion into the country without any corresponding advantage. He would vote for the amendment that the House go into committee on the Bill this day three months.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD was opposed to the adoption of the decimal system at present; it would be an inconvenience to the country people for a considerable time. There was nothing to hinder any person to keep his accounts as he pleased; let the merchants, if they thought the system an advantage, keep their accounts in dollars and cents, and this course might be the means of training up the people to understand this method of accounting.

After several hon. members, who had expressed their views on the measure yesterday,—had spoken—chiefly reiterating their former arguments—the question was put on Hon. Mr COLES' motion of amendment that the House go into Committee on the Bill this day three months, when there appeared, *For it* Hons. Messrs. Coles, Thornton, Yeo, Laird, Kelly; Messrs. Sinclair, Owen, Cooper, Montgomery, Holm, Conroy, Howat—12.

Against it—Messrs M'Neill, Davies, J. Yeo, Beer; Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Wightman, M'Aulay, Longworth, Gray, Hensley—10.

Hon. Mr. COLES asked if the Government would have any objections to furnish the House with a copy of the Attorney General's statements forwarded with the two Bills which had been refused the Royal assent, namely the Shore's Bill and the Land Commissioners' award Bill; as also of the despatches which accompanied them to the Colonial Office.

Hon. Col. GRAY was not aware of any objections to furnish them. He had the statement of the Attorney General on the Shores Bill in his possession for the information of the House, and would procure the other documents.

The Bill to give summary protection to persons employed in the publication of Parliamentary papers, was, according to order, read a second time, and passed through Committee

Adjourned for one hour. D. LAIRD, Reporter.

Correspondence.

[The following letter was sent to the *Islander* for publication, and refused insertion in that paper, for reasons that must be obvious to every person who knows that the proprietor and publisher holds the office of Queen's Printer, and the editor those of Secretary and Clerk of the Executive Council. The independence of their journal is not rendered very conspicuous by their refusal to publish a letter which seems to reflect very lightly on two or three members of the Government. We are requested to publish it, and we can see no reason why we should refuse compliance with the request.—Ed'r Ex'r.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ISLANDER.

SIR,—Having been honored with particular notice during late discussions in the Assembly, as appears by the reports in your widely circulated paper, I may be allowed to offer a few remarks in reference to some expressions that have fallen from leading members of the Executive, in the course of debate.

The Hon. Colonel Gray affects to think himself "more maligned" than any other man in the Colony by "two individuals" of whom he names me as one, and first of all, it may be as well to inquire a little into the grounds for this *insinuation*—for it amounts to nothing more.

Almost any one must suppose the Colonel would feel it a distinction to be represented as the fast friend of the tenantry;—as having attended the Land Commissioners, day after day, and done his best to give effect to his famous "Resolutions," as far as the tenants are concerned. Now this is the head and front of my offending, and yet the Col. feels himself "maligned!" but of course he is the best judge of what is due to his intentions, which I trust the tenants themselves may hereafter duly appreciate. But to explain further: I felt it requisite to set forth, in my petition, the very able advocacy the Tenants' cause had received;—that a fair chance had been afforded them to make known their grievances; and that the able assistance of members of the Executive Government was not wanting on the occasion. Here are the words I used;—"Although learned counsel of high "professional standing were retained—from the Bar of New "Brunswick and that of P. E. Island—by the local Government on behalf of the tenantry, yet certain members of "Your Majesty's Executive Council, namely, Colonel the "Honorable John Hamilton Gray, and the Honorable John "Longworth—both members of the Assembly—addressed the "Commissioners in open Court against the leasehold tenure, "the former especially attended throughout nearly the whole "of the tenants' case." Now, whatever the Col. may profess, I cannot believe Mr. Longworth will think himself "maligned" by this respectful mention of his name, though we see it stated by another member of the Executive that those gentlemen are represented as having stepped from "their high position to take part with the tenantry." Can they really fancy themselves "maligned" by the bare mention of the fact? or giving them credit for sincerity in their zeal? Ought they not rather to esteem themselves truly represented as doing honor to the "high position" to which the suffrages of the tenantry have raised them? Had I represented the Honorable Colonel as taking part with the landlords, he might then complain in earnest! I did also express a belief to which I still most sincerely adhere, that the Colonel's interference, however well-timed and considerate, would not tend much to bring about an amicable settlement of the question, to the satisfaction of *all* parties; an opinion in which I think, by this time, a good many will concur. I further mentioned that the Col. himself was the descendant of an original Grantee, but did not now hold or represent any interest in Township lands in this Island. These are the simple facts, and if saying that a man's grandfather received a grant of land be maligning the grandson, I must have "maligned" more than the Colonel. I was not aware until lately that he asserts he attended the Commissioners, not as "a member of the Government," but as plain "*citizen*" Gray, nor can I see the sense or meaning of the distinction; though it certainly conveys no great compliment to the tenantry, who will doubtless value it accordingly. To give more of the contents of the petition would be superfluous;—much of it was of a private nature, and it was written solely with the view to protect the lawful interests of myself and family; and I can conscientiously declare from no political or party motives; though I cannot help noticing the mean attempts, in the Assembly, to make political capital out of it—attempts nevertheless which it is amusing to see have most signally failed in their object.

Now mark the consistency of Honorable gentlemen. The far-famed Resolutions which accompanied the Address to the Queen, (dated May 9th, 1859), were conceived in the very spirit of moderation, and it was most distinctly stated, in the preamble, that there was to be no "compulsory interference with the lands and rights of the proprietors," as such would be contrary to the declarations of Her Majesty's Government "for a great number of years." But no sooner is the consent of Sir S. Cunard and a few other *big men* obtained than the tone is wonderfully changed. *We have fairly secured the large fish, and can make short work with the small fry—such pestilent fellows as Charles Wright and others, who dare to make their complaints heard! why, tax them, down with them, to the very dust, and below it! They have lost all claim to the "SYMPATHY" of the home Government, and know better than to expect any from us, to whose "tender mercies" they shall henceforth be consigned!* Such is, in effect, the substance of certain speeches lately delivered in the Assembly; and even Dan. Davies joins in the cry, as well as he can make himself heard. For my own part, I ask the "*sympathy*" of no Governments, and claim nothing from them but fair play;—when that is denied me, by the Hon. Colonel or his colleagues, I know *where* to appeal. He certainly takes the lead in regular Dragoon style, and seems disposed to make slashing work in his onslaught on proprietors.

As regards the Hon. Mr. Longworth, I ought perhaps, in justice to add, that throughout the debate, as reported in your paper, he appears to have been guided by moderation, though he had as much cause to complain of being "*maligned*" as any one of his colleagues. But Mr. Longworth knows better than that; he understands constitutional privilege, and is doubtless well aware that Her Majesty's Minister would not allow the meanest subject in the realm to be fettered in his right to petition his Sovereign. Mr. Longworth is probably also better informed on another point than his gallant colleague would appear to be—namely, that so far from the Lieut. Governor being "bound to transmit every petition addressed to the Authorities at home, no matter what it contains," (!!!) his Excellency's instructions would not justify him in even receiving a representation, unless couched in respectful language; and every one must know that the Lieut. Governor is too sensible of what is due to his Sovereign, and his own high position, to transmit libellous or disrespectful matter to be laid at the foot of the throne; even if, as was meanly insinuated in the Assembly, I had placed such in his hands. It may be said, indeed, that due allowance should be made for gentlemen in the heat of debate, and I understand that the Colonel, who has served in the army, sometimes both acts and speaks with the characteristic warmth of a soldier; and may very reasonably be supposed to know more of "martial law," as administered at the drum-head than of either "*Habeas Corpus*" or "the Bill of Rights."

Such an excuse, however, will fail to apply to another "honorable gentleman," who, if I am correctly informed, has the reputation of being a sound "constitutional lawyer," and bearing the local rank of Major of Militia, has not been inaptly styled "the Hotspur of the Executive." It is not at present my intention to take particular notice of his silly sarcasms upon me; but as regards the principles enunciated by him, as well as his practice, on the land question, I am happy to say that I differ with him *in toto*. I am fully aware of his claims to consideration, so modestly urged in his speech, "as a land agent, and as the son of a landlord," both which distinctions I trust he may long enjoy; though he doubtless expects, "*in the course of nature or otherwise*," to become some day a landlord himself, if he do not now and then *lord it* a little already. I speak of the Major with the utmost respect, nor am I ignorant of his numerous pretensions, whether martial or civil, though to enumerate them all may be tedious. Being an Executive Councillor, he is of course dubbed "honorable" for life; he is also a member of the Assembly, and joint law partner with the Attorney General—as a *circumstance* unavoidably prohibits his individual appointment to that high office; and for aught I can tell, he may prove the successful candidate for further honors and distinctions, as yet unknown or unheard of! But though, like his prototye, he may think it

"An easy leap,
To pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon,"

yet would I humbly recommend him, in exalting himself, to abstain, if possible, from trampling upon other *creatures*, however lowly their condition, and even if no higher in the creation than the *bete noire* described in Captain Orlebar's last lecture before the "Christian Association." But "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," and as worldly glory is but "vanity," we must call philosophy to our aid, amid the trials of life. In this view of the matter, then, what does it amount to? Why, the Major with his eloquence, and with honors thick upon him, reminds one of a new-fledged "Cock Sparrow," that by some chance has got perched rather higher up than usual; and in the giddy flutter of excitement, voids a little harmless slime, without odour enough to "*stink in the nostrils*" of the "black beasts" ruminating below.

May 7, 1861. CHARLES WRIGHT.

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

BOSTON, May 1, 1861.—We have now 20,000 troops at Washington, true and loyal to the Federal Government, and ready to defend it to the last. The utmost enthusiasm exists among the troops.

Notwithstanding the trouble at Baltimore, Maryland has come out true for the Union.

We have just received intelligence from Mississippi that a great famine existed there.

Information received here that the South are busily engaged fitting out privateers. We, however, are not alarmed. The Forts in our harbor are garrisoned by volunteers from the city. The blockade of Southern Ports was enforced on Saturday.

Three vessels of war are fitting out at the Portsmouth, (N. H.) Navy yard, to take part in enforcing the blockade.

BOSTON, May 1st.—WASHINGTON, 30th.—President Lincoln has called for eighty thousand more troops, making a hundred and fifty thousand in all.

Considerable excitement in Diplomatic circles on account of the President's proclamation with reference to the blockading of Southern ports. Foreign Ministers insist that sufficient notice was not given.

Government have been informed of contemplated attack on Washington. Virginia remonstrating, but Southern Confederacy insists on its being made.

NEW YORK, April 30th.—Different arrivals from Charleston confirm great loss of life during the attack on Sumpter.

Legislature of Maryland voted that Federal troops be allowed to pass through the State.

Union Meeting last night at Baltimore—two thousand strong—Union resolutions passed—National banner unfurled.

Preparations are being made for the repairs to Railroads from and through Baltimore, under protection of troops.

BOSTON, May 2.

The Federal Government have authorised a new loan of fourteen millions of dollars.

The Congress of the Southern Confederacy assembled at Montgomery yesterday. Jefferson Davis speaks in his message hopefully of the Southern Confederacy, and denounces President Lincoln and the Federal Government for not treating with the Commissioners which he sent to Washington.

He also says that he has dispatched several Commissioners to the leading European Powers, for the immediate recognition of the Confederate Government.

Fort Pickens has been strongly reinforced. There is now a force there sufficient to meet any number of rebels that may be sent against it.

Stocks are better.

Steamer Cambridge sailed to-day with large detachments of Volunteers, their destination is supposed to be Fort Munroe, Annapolis.

Evidence is hourly being received of Lieut. Maury's treachery, which is daily becoming more apparent.

Commodore Armstrong has been suspended from the navy for three years without pay.

It has been announced that the Norkolk navy yard is to be retaken immediately.

Minister Faulkner has presented the Southern Commissioners to the Emperor Nepoleon,

Mr. Dallas, the American Minister in England, has declined presenting the Southern Commissioners to the Queen, until instructed by the Federal Government at Washington.

Considerable excitement has been manifested in several of the Northern cities by the fact that there are many Southern spies there. The Northerners are determined to dispose of them summarily, when caught.

Southern Officers in the service of the Federal Government have resigned. It is reported that the Government intend to have them arrested.

Large numbers of free negroes of the Confederate States are enlisting in the army of the Southern Confederacy.

The Second Battalion of Boston had received orders from Head-quarters, to proceed to Fort Warren, Boston harbor. The soldiers responded heartily.

The Confederate States are in a state of anarchy. Business is prostrated. People are less confident, and the country is in a state of mob law. The people are escaping every opportunity.

A lady, a resident of Brooklyn, who has been for some time past in Savannah, Georgia, arrived home Wednesday evening. She states that on every hand throughout the line of her travel homeward, especially south of Virginia, the most active preparations for warlike movements were going on—everybody was arming, and everybody confidently anticipated that the southern army under Jeff. Davis, would be safely installed in Washington before the 1st of May. In fact, this was treated as an event at least more than half accomplished.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday.—(*Times* Correspondence.)—A deputation of Virginians and Marylanders waited on the President to-day and demanded the cessation of hostilities until after the session of Congress. The President's answer was prompt and decided. One of the deputation said that 75,000 Marylanders would contest the passage of troops over her soil. The President replied, "he presumed there was room enough on her soil to bury 75,000."

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM MARYLAND—THREATENED SLAVE INSURRECTION—TERROR AMONG THE WHITE POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICTS.

Reliable information has just reached this office that intense excitement prevails throughout the rural districts of Maryland, in consequence of the imminent danger of an immediate, bloody outbreak on the part of the slave population. Slaves, on a large number of estates, have ceased to treat their masters with ordinary civility. They covertly insinuate that they expect to be speedily provided with arms; and there is no doubt that the awful horrors of Saint Domingo, in the beginning of the century, will be repeated, upon an enlarged scale, unless Providence shall interfere to prevent so fearful a calamity.

There is a slave conspiracy organized whose ramifications extend into Virginia. A lady recently arrived at Annapolis on her way to the North—herself a slave owner—stated, that she did not dare to live among her blacks with no further security than the local authorities can afford. She says that she had not a neighbour in the district where she resides, who does not consider it unquestionable that a barbarous warfare, with the hideous concomitants of the insurrection of a brutalized, inferior race, is on the eve of desolating the region in which she has resided.

Maryland should make peace with the Federal authorities. Self-preservation, and the duty she owes to the mothers, daughters and children of the State, demands that she should take the speediest measures to avoid the evils with which she is menaced.—*N. Y. News, 25th.*

NEW YORK, May 3.

The Steamer *Northern Light*, from Aspinwall, with nearly One Million in Gold, has arrived.

Mendoza, near Valparaiso, had been destroyed by an Earthquake. Eight thousand Lives were lost.

The Steamship *United States*, from Glasgow for Montreal, is ashore at Bird Rock, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and going to pieces.

WASHINGTON, 3 p. m.

Gulf States demanding an attack on Washington. Virginia opposes. Southern troops uncontrollable.

Arrivals from extreme South, state affairs in terrible condition.

THE CATHOLICS IN THE CRISIS.—To the Catholic Bishop of Philadelphia (says the Boston *Transcript*.) belongs the high honor of being the first clergyman in the United States to raise the "stars and stripes" over an edifice erected for public worship, after President Lincoln's proclamation.—The Philadelphia Cathedral has a noble dome, which rises 210 feet above the square on which it fronts—so that the national ensign the Bishop raised is visible over a district of nearly as extensive as that from which the cupola of the State House in Boston can be seen. Archbishop Hughes, of New York, has raised the American flag over the Cathedral in his diocese.

HOW OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURS AMUSE THEMSELVES ON THE SABBATH.—The canaille of St. Louis were treated with the spectacle of a fight between two bull terrier dogs and a Brazilian tiger, at the Arsenal Park in that city on last Sunday week. Eight or nine hundred men and boys were present to witness the brutal exhibition. The tiger was a small animal, weighing about ninety-five pounds, and the dogs weighed fifty and eighty-five pounds, respectively. The fight took place in a cage. At the outset the dogs were nearly scalped, and long ribbons of hide and flesh were stripped from them by the tiger, who got one of the dog's paws in his mouth, and was crunching it dreadfully, when the other dog got at his throat and could not be shaken off. This decided the contest. The first dog, released by this attack, sprang upon the tiger's back, and commenced gnawing through his neck from the top. After a while the dogs were removed, when the tiger, says the *Democrat*, staggered a few steps, fell, and expired.

LATE FROM EUROPE.

The following despatch was received at the Merchants Exchange Room, Halifax, a few days ago.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F.

The Steamship *Adriatic* from Galway 23rd, arrived at St. John's at 2 p. m. on Monday.

LONDON, 23rd.—The Budget was debated in the House of Commons last night. The Opposition denounced it generally, but proposed no amendment.

Lord John Russell said that the proposed conference on the Slave Trade would not be held, on account of the American Government refusing to take part therein.

Affairs at Warsaw are unaltered. The troops are all concentrating at Warsaw.

The Italian Chambers have agreed to leave the question of the reconstruction of the Southern army with the Ministry.

The reactionary movements in Italy are completely suppressed.

The Madrid papers say that Spain intends to reject the offer of the reincorporation of St. Domingo with Spain.

Market without much change.

The American news has caused an advance in Cotton.

MILLITARY MOVEMENTS IN ITALY—EXPECTATION OF WAR.

The *Nord* says:—"The news from Italy seems to turn once more in the direction of war. In consequence of the concentration of the Austrian troops in the Quadrilateral, and their being put on a complete campaign footing, the periodical rumours of an early contest have assumed some consistency amongst the Milanese. Without positively sharing in these apprehensions, the Italian Government neglects no means of opposing to the demonstrations of Austria a defence which shall be worthy of Italy. Its forces are divided into two grand *corps d'armee*, one extending from Bologna to Plaisance, the command of which is entrusted to General Cialdini; and the other, under the orders of La Marmora, covering the Lombardian frontier. The two armies each number 60 000 men."

The *Official Gazette* of Turin publishes a decree relative to the reorganisation of the Garibaldian army. In virtue of this decree the Garibaldian officers will form part of the new corps, which will be composed of three divisions. It is hoped at Turin these measures will remove one of the principal causes of difference between Count Cavour and Garibaldi.

POLAND.

THE FEARFUL SCENES AT WARSAW.

The Paris papers publish ample details of the recent lamentable occurrences at Warsaw:—On April 7, a body of nearly 60,000 persons assembled to go in procession to the patronal *fete* of Powouski, but the idea was afterwards abandoned. The next morning a great number of persons attended the churches, and at the close of the service assembled in the streets. The crowd collected was immense and very agitated, and went in a body to the hotel of the Agricultural Society. Over the principal entrance is the double-headed eagle, the arms of Russia, having on its breast the white eagle of Poland. The Russian eagle was not injured by the crowd, but they covered it with crape, so that only the Polish eagle could be seen. The people also covered the front of the hotel with branches of palm and wreaths of immortelles. The people demanded Count Andre Zamoyski, but on being informed that he was not in the hotel they went to his private residence. The Count, seeing the crowd approach, went down into the street, and, addressing the leaders, recommended them to observe calmness and moderation, as such conduct would constitute their greatest strength. They promised that his advice should be followed. About 5 o'clock the mass of people went towards the chateau of General Gortschakoff, who had from the previous day kept an imposing force under arms. The crowd called loudly for the General, who came out on horseback at the head of his Staff, and, advancing towards them, asked what they wanted. 'We want our country, and a Polish army, for a country without an army is a hand without fingers.' The General replied that they had not adopted a proper mode of asking for it, and advised them to disperse without disturbance. 'The Emperor,' added the General, 'has already made several concessions to you, and will make more if you remain quiet.' 'Promise us to