CORRESPONDENCE.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON, U. S.

2nd Auditor's Office,
Washington, D. C.,
Jan'y 24th, 1867.

EDITOR EXAMINER.

Dear Sir;

Since my last letter to you, Christmas, with its hallowed memories of a race regenerated and a world redeemed, and New Year's day, with its usual excitement and festivities, have passed over. New Year's day was a great day in Washington. The President, the members of his Cabinet, and Gen. Grant kept open houses during the day. All who desired enjoyed the honor of shaking hands with them. General Grant looked grave, modest, unostentatious—I might almost add common place—as usual. With the exception of the four stars on his shoulders, there was nothing in his attire, bearing, manner or surroundings that would indicate the high rank he holds in the great American nation. Refreshments of all kinds were provided in abundance; and Mrs. Grant received her company with an unassuming grace, and a cordiality of manner which went far towards correcting, in the minds of her guests, certain false impressions that had obtained prevalence as to her alleged haughtiness of manner.

The most exciting topic of conversation and discussion here now is the attempted impeachment of President Johnson. It is generally conceded that it was not the intention or the desire of the present Congress to carry their oft repeated threats of impeachment into execution. The subject was forced upon them, however, by the indiscreet zeal of one of their number—a man who escaped impeachment himself, a few years ago, for corruption and malfeasance in office, only by a technical flaw in the indictment—and they had to grapple with it. They were placed in a perplexing dilemma. By opposing the measure, they ran the risk of incurring the displeasure and losing the confidence of their radical constituencies, to whose fierce passions they had so often pandered on the stump and through the press, by denouncing Andrew Johnson for his alleged recreancy, and threatening his impeachment. On the other hand, they could not fail to foresee that the impeaching of the Executive of the nation, simply for having differed from them on questions of Governmental policy, or the interpretation of constitutional law, would, in the end, entail infamy on those who would establish such a terrible precedent for the guidance of future majorities. To extricate themselves from the difficulty, they handed the matter over to the Judiciary Committee for investigation—imposing upon them a task as hopeless and tedious as that which the renowned wizard, Michael Scott, imposed upon his troublesome familiar of making ropes out of the sea sand. Many sensible conservatives are of the opinion that the initiatory stepts were taken in the present Congress merely to pave the way for Ben. Butler in the Fortieth Congress, who, being utterly impervious to infamy, having no reputation to lose, and no conscience to restrain him, is ready to advocate any measure, however odious, that promises to gratify his fierce passions.

All the charges and specifications against President Johnson, upon which the indictment is to be based, are such as have been brought against nearly all his predecessors, from the days of Washington down, by their political opponents. He is accused of attempting to prevent legislation, necessary to the permanent security of the government, by an improper use of the veto power; and, yet, the constitution imposes no restraint on the Executive in the exercise of this power. He can use it whenever *he* thinks that the legislature transcends its constitutional powers. The framers of the constitution granted that power to the President, indeed, to provide against such an emergency as is now upon us—to serve as a national safeguard against the effects of hasty, intemperate legislation, inspired by sentiments of revenge or party strife. He is accused of having, by the too indiscriminate use of the pardoning power, permitted a great number of the leading rebels to escape the punishment due to their crimes. Now, however reprehensible such a course may be in the President, it certainly involves no crime, for the constitution places no limits to the pardoning power, excepting in cases of impeachment. Besides, the list of pardoned rebels, lately published by request of Congress, reveals the fact that, with the exception of a few obscure individuals, all the rebels to whom clemency has thus far been extended owed their pardon to the recommendation of such men as Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, Gov. Brownlow, and even some of the leading radicals in Congress. He is accused of endeavoring, by the distribution of public patronage, to debauch the public mind and strengthen his own party; and, yet, the right of bestowing the public offices on whom they pleased has been claimed and exercised by all American Presidents since the days of Andrew Jackson, who was the first to establish the rule of having none but the friends of the administration in office. His illustrious predecessor — God bless his memory — turned four out of office for every one that Andrew Johnson has turned out. He is accused of attempting to bring the legislative branch of the Government into disrepute by styling them in public speeches a "rump congress," "disunionists," and describing them as "hanging on the verge of the Government." This accusation comes with a very bad grace from men who have repeatedly, in public and in private, denounced him as a traitor, and one of whose number accused him, a few days ago, on the floor of the House, unrebuked by the Speaker or any of his political confrères, of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln—what every one of them knew to be a base and atrocious calumny. They accuse him of having compromised the dignity of the Presidential office by his speeches on his Chicago tour. Now, however injudicious such a course on the part of the President may have been—and no sensible person will attempt to justify it—the making of foolish speeches was never before regarded as a crime, especially in America, where the passion for cheap oratory has grown almost into a mania. The radicals profess to be greatly scandalized at President Johnson's political speeches, but they can see no criminality, or even impropriety, in the conduct of Chief Justice Chase in making stump speeches in support of the Civil Rights Bill, the constitutionality of which he knew would be tested in the court of which he was the presiding officer. Such conduct would make a judge infamous in your country; and, even in this country, it should disqualify him for sitting in judgment on any cause involving the constitutionality of that measure that he had advocated in stump speeches. It was surely less reprehensible in President Johnson to announce the line of public policy he intended to pursue than it was in the Chief Justice of the United States to foreshadow, in his public speeches, the decision he would give on a question of constitutional law.

I have given you above, as nearly as I can from memory, the charges against President Johnson, as they appeared, a short time ago, in the radical organ here, the *Chronicle*. If the cause were to be heard before intelligent and impartial judges, the charges would be at once dismissed as unworthy of grave consideration; but, as the case will be tried before a court composed of Mr. Johnson's bitter enemies, who, intoxicated with power and inflamed by passion, appear determined to remove him out of their way by any means, fair or foul, it is difficult to predict what the result will be. It is not likely that such men, in such a frame of mind, will pay much regard to law or precedent. It is more than probable, however, that, in their revolutionary efforts to concentrate all the powers of the Government in Congress, the radicals will encounter a more formidable opponent than President Johnson in the Supreme Court of the United States. What the nature of this opposition is likely to be I shall endeavor to explain in a future letter.

I have often regretted of late that we had not a moderate, middle party in Congress, corresponding to the old Trimmers in the English Parliament, who, by holding the balance of power, could restrain the excesses of either extreme party. If we had amongst our representatives a few of those illustrious and immaculate statesmen who, according to your factitious three-starred correspondent, expand and luxuriate in P. E. Island as their native clime, we might yet entertain hopes for this country. To a P. E. Islander, however, residing in this country, who retains tender memories of his island home, with its simple-mannered, hospitable, God-fearing people, it is rather mortifying and humiliating to find that the great majority of even intelligent men you may encounter here are not only oblivious of the existence of those models of public virtue and patriotism, but are ignorant even of the existence of the island on which their character sheds such a lustre. Your opposition to the Confederation scheme has, just now, given you a kind of factitious notoriety; and, if you improve the occasion by joining with the aforesaid correspondent in lustily blowing your own horns, you may succeed in attaining a proud and permanent position amongst the nations of the earth. There may be as much wisdom as absurdity, after all, in the strange precept of the Mormon Bible: "Let every man sound his own horn, for unless every man sound his own horn, no man's horn shall be exalted."

We have a very carnival of pleasure in Washington this winter. We have three or four theaters in full blast, amateur concerts innumerable, public lectures, public receptions, carnivals on the skating park, &c., &c. We have had Wallack in his impersonation of the leading characters of Shakespeare, Mortimer in Griffith Gaunt, Jefferson in Rip Van Winkle, and the popular star actress, Maggie Mitchell, in her favorite characters of "Fanchon," "Little Barefoot" and "Marie, the Pearl of Savoy." It has been my good fortune, within the last few years, to have seen on the stage some of the greatest tragedians of this age; but I have to confess that I never was so powerfully affected by any of them as I was by Maggie Mitchell in the last mentioned drama. In her representation of the character of a careless, rowdyish, wild, but artless and truth-loving young girl, and the gradual unfolding and development of this character, by the awakening powers of love, affliction and innate goodness, into sterling womanhood, she stands without a rival. The personal beauty of the *petite* woman enhances the charm of her acting; while the known purity of her private life gains her friends and admirers even amongst the "unco guid," who regard actresses generally with but little favor.—The Young Men's Christian Association here supply us with lectures from such men as Horace Greeley, Bayard Taylor and Prof. Agassiz. I do not permit my love of solitude to deprive me of the pleasure of hearing such lectures, or even of going occasionally to see such an actress as Maggie Mitchell.

As the night is now well advanced into "the wee sma' hours ayont the twal," I must bid yourself and your readers for the present an affectionate farewell. M.

A SILVER THAW IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Op'd ever eye on fairer scene than *this*,
Since Adam fell, and that eventful morn,
To *man* eventful, when in Eden's bowers,
He shrank abashed before Omniscience!

* * * * * * * * *

Ye murm'ring souls, that with impatient eye
Behold fair winter as she passes by,
And when she sits triumphant on the sea,
Refuse your homage to her majesty,
And long to hear the vernal breezes blow
That sap her strength, and lay her sceptre low,
Look forth to-day! and in your ravish'd breast
Be all her claims to loveliness confess'd.
Look forth to-day!—the "silver age" again
Hath surely dawned upon the haunts of men;
Or we have pass'd, since ev'ning's shadows fell,
To fabled isles, where fairies only dwell!
The stately trees, as by magician's wand
To chandeliers all metamorphosed stand,
Crystalline lamps from ev'ry branch depend,
And to the scene enchantment's colours lend.
The sombre earth in icy mantle veiled
Shines like the surface of a silver shield,
Ten thousand jewels in the valleys glow,
And fancy revels in the burnished snow.
What graceful forms embellish every slope!
Say, is the world a vast Kaleidiscope?
Or, has the sun disclosed at length to view
Some El-dorado, buried hitherto?
Soft fleecy vapours fill the azure sky,
Entrance the bosom and deceive the eye;
Sol seems to shine with Phœbe's mellowed light,
And day to linger in the car of night;
Illusive glories lend the mirrored plain
The smiling features of the placid main,
Each gabled roof, and heaven-pointing spire,
Seems sheath'd with gold, or wrapp'd in living fire,
Whilst *all below*—lake, city, forest, sea,
In common own the spell of mystery!
Creator! Lord! how infinite appear
Thy skill and power in a Northern sphere!
What varied charms the seasons as they roll
In turn present to captivate the soul;
At *thy* command, from ocean's angry breast
The storied iceberg lifts its silver crest,
Smiles down in triumph on the puny barque,
Or looms portentous through the tempest dark;
Impelled by *Thee*, Aurora's arrows fly,
In paths of light, athwart the starry sky;
They seem to lend a momentary view
Of glories 'neath yon canopy of blue,
Or else to write on heaven's walls afar
Thy coming doom, apostate Lucifer!
Thy spirit breathes; but why, my God, prolong
A strain more fitted for a seraph's tongue;
Or strive to tell, when goes *thy* fiat forth,
What marvels gild the chambers of the North?
Their balmy gales, let other regions boast,
Pellucid streams, unfettered by the frost,
Unclouded skies, and groves that never know
A fading leaf or coverlet of snow;
We would not change these spectacles sublime,
For all the splendours of a Southern clime!
Blanched though her cheek by winter's chilly breath,
Yet nature still is beautiful in death;
Nor praise the less, hyperborean snows,
Than spring's fair blossoms, or the summer's rose!

St. John. M. S.

"PLAIN, HONEST KENNETH!"

Mr. Editor;

This is almost a busy time with our politicians. Canvassing is strictly the order of the day. What, with meetings of all kinds, on all subjects, confederation, taxation, trade with Braziland other countries, education, public lands, roads, bridges, etc., the mind becomes almost surfeited. I have the misfortune, or rather the good fortune, to live in the Fourth Electoral District of King's County, the Murray Harbor District, and if, between all the meetings, we have not had a special time of it, it is a pity. I venture to say that the successful candidates, whoever they may be, will know *more of the topography of the district*, than did, at least *one* of their predecessors. You know, Mr. Editor, he who thought himself "big" enough to knock Sturgeon out of this district altogether; poor fellow, he has been transported into another district; and I hope he'll know something more about it than he did about this one before he'll succeed in gaining their *then* misplaced confidence. What a difference between now, and the blessed time when candidates could "sit down at ease," both to finish and commence their "*canvas*" by *making a long, windy speech on their nomination*. Now, we see them on the stump not one month, as the *Patriot* says, *but two, three*, and in this district we have them dancing round us since mid-summer; that being the memorable time when we were aroused to the reality of an approaching General Election, by the Hon. Kenneth Henderson hovering, I believe for the first time in his life, on such occasions, in this locality, over Sacramental and other religious gatherings, in order to ingratiate himself with the religious element in the district, as a first advance to favour. He is now galloping through the district for the second or third time. The people take it as "kind o' encouraging" to have such particular attention paid to them; but the difficulty of the matter is, that some sections of the district, especially parts of Lots 61 and 63, are almost inaccessible, as in those parts there is nothing worthy the name of a road. On a particular occasion, referring to roads, Mr. Prowse, Mr. H.'s colleague, said the reason why the roads were so very bad was "a large increase in the *number of carriages and so much driving*;" when told that his own carriage was likely the first that went over the roads out there, he commenced a process of reasoning ("not the worn-out rules of Locke and Bacon," he goes for Wrangler's logic) to show that he was right and insisted on the people believing him; you may imagine the force of his arguments when I tell you that he almost succeeded.

When Mr. Henderson first entered the district to hold public meetings, he was incautious enough—"gentlemanly enough" he says himself—to notify his opponents of the fact; but, now, he sees his mistake. He sees *now*, and he might have seen it before, that nothing is gained by discussion—that his opponents (highly-coloured reports of meetings by Road Commissioners and other servile tools of the Government, in the garb of secretaries, notwithstanding) are fully able to measure swords with him. His programme now is good; he goes slinking through the district, no one hears of his meetings till they are over. He makes good use of his time—meetings all the week and on Sabbath assumes the office of Catechist. His object now in visiting the district is to explain about his resignation and the balloting affair at Bonshaw. Concerning the latter affair, though he don't tell the *people* that he was wrong, oh, no, no; still he says "he would not like to do it again."

As to his resignation, as he calls it, and it is here that Mr. H. is eloquent, long-winded, but savage; his explanation generally occupies about three hours. It appears to have inflicted almost a mortal wound; he tries to maintain his good humor, but he breaks through—so very irritable is he that the least inattention or noise brings forth the fearful threat of "making a still more grating noise." He is perfectly inconsolable—save when at the oft-recurring time he refers to the "*treachery*" of the Hon. J. C. Pope. He does not, "notwithstanding the high opinion he has always formed of that gentleman," exclude his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor from a goodly share of censure. "The plain, humble Kenneth, with truth on his side, has proved too many even for the Popes" (?) nor is this his own verdict: "What are the facts?" If you ask for those, he refers you to the man he met in the Prince of Wales' Hotel, Charlottetown. He was from New London, and appears to have told Mr. H. *some wonderful things about his letters*, and among other things, that his (Mr. H's) word goes farther in New London than Mr. J. C. Pope's oath. This was surely "pouring wine and oil" into Mr. H's wounds. But if any still doubt that in his "note of warning" he has not completely overcome his opponents, he is ready with the still more wonderful and doubtful fact of their (the Popes) coming to the same conclusion, as a result from his "*truth*," of not running the election at all. Then comes the explanation from his colleague, that they are the *independent party* who can afford to throw Mr. J. C. Pope and other confederate traitors overboard—he would never consent to form a Government of which the Popes would be members.

Mr. H. talks wildly on the $800,000, council secrets, perjury, etc. In regard to those secrets, he says he can state negatives; as such, in answer to a question as to the reason why the House of Assembly was not dissolved when he, as an anti-confederate, had a majority in the Executive, he said the House *could not be dissolved* without the consent of the Lieutenant Governor—giving the people pretty fully to understand that his (the Lieutenant Governor's) consent was all that was wanting to have had a dissolution before his and Mr. Duncan's resignations and the late Mr. McLaren's death. By-the-bye, he and Mr. Duncan must have seen some rough time in the Executive Council in their day.

Mr. H. is a man who makes extraordinary statements, still he says himself he is a man of "*truth*." When attacked about any extravagant expenditure of the Government, he generally says he was absent from *the Council at the time*, &c., so that whoever is condemned, Mr. H. is justified. If you should be unfortunate enough to doubt his being popular in the district he represented in the Legislative Council, he instantly refers you to one Mr. L. McKenzie, who he met sometime in Charlottetown; so that he is always fortified with facts.

Mr. Editor, I thought that the country should know these (Mr. H's) important facts; if published this way, it will save him a great deal of traveling *through the district*. The independent electors up here are rather kind, and will not fail to be kind enough to send him home a *disappointed* candidate, at least for the next four years. He implores the people to send him home at once, if they will not support him; we bid him for this time an affectionate farewell.

PUBLICO.

Fourth District King's,
Feb'y 18th, 1867.

POLITICAL MEETING AT CARDIGAN NEW BRIDGE.

A public Meeting of the electors of Cardigan and vicinity was held in the school house at the above place, on Tuesday, the 12th inst. Mr. Allan Campbell was called to the chair and the undersigned appointed Secretary. As the Liberal electors of this—the Third Electoral District—at meetings held more than a month ago, had (on resignation of Mr. W. P. Lewis) unanimously agreed to support Hon. J. Wightman and Mr. Charles Clay at the approaching election; and, as other parties have since entered the field to the danger of the Liberal cause, this meeting was, therefore, called to test the minds of the people on the subject, and discuss other political matters of importance. Mr. Wightman first addressed the meeting in his usually forcible and eloquent style, commenced by saying the Government acted wrong in *keeping the election back* until this inclement season of the year; that such delay was quite in accordance with their other arbitrary and unpopular proceedings. He then alluded to Confederation—portrayed clearly and forcibly the evils which it would entail on P. E. Island if we went into the proposed union with Canada; said we will be well taxed if we put ourselves in the power of the Canadians; and advised the people to pledge their representatives to vigorously oppose any terms *of union* that would include this Island. When the Tory party got into power they promised retrenchment in the public *expenditure*; but, *instead of* keeping this promise, they have increased it by adding deputies to different public offices; and otherwise shamefully wasting the people's money. He also spoke of the Government's having sent delegates to England concerning the Land Question, as having no better effect for the tenants than virtually to confirm the proprietors' titles—the persons sent on the delegation being proprietors or their agents. Also alluded to the Brazil delegation as a shameful expenditure of the revenue. Mr. Pope got £50 for superintending the Barracks, although he was absent in Brazil when the Barracks were being built. Spoke of the unnecessary sending for troops to enforce the collection of rents—feeding them on crackers and whiskey, &c., at the expence of the public—believing as he did that the civil force of the country was quite sufficient to keep the peace. He thought the public money would be much better laid out in encouraging agricultural societies through the country and in stimulating our fishery interests. At the conclusion of these remarks Mr. W. was heartily cheered.

L. C. Owen, Esq., next briefly addressed the meeting. Said the increase of business in some of the public offices, such as the Land Office, Post Office, &c., required additional clerks to perform the work. Said he did not come to defend all the acts of the Government.

Mr. C. D. Clay next came forward, and in a very lengthy and fluent speech exposed the political sins of the late Government—vividly showing up their reckless squandering of the people's money—strongly condemned their sending delegates to Canada without the sanction of the Legislature. Accused the Executive of being *thoroughly confederate*; thought they only wanted an opportunity to drive us into union with Canada. Believed the General Election was postponed for no other purpose. He highly approved of Mr. Sinclair's resolution binding the Government not to appoint confederate delegations in future without first submitting the matter to the people for their approval. Condemned in severe tones those who voted against said Resolution. Mr. Clay said it was a clear proof of the unpopularity of the Government when their *Leader is afraid to offer his services to any constituency.*

Mr Wightman rose again and spoke of the $800,000 bribe as a glaring piece of treachery. Said no censure could be too severe for a Government that tried to sell the people's birthright for that amount. He then alluded to the Free Education system; said it was a credit to the Liberal party; thought it the most important measure ever carried through our Legislature; but that the Conservatives had so crippled and marred its efficient working, as to render it almost worthless. Said the Government had sadly trifled with the interests of the poor Schoolmasters, and that if he had the honor of being returned, he would endeavour to have the School Act remodelled, and obtain a better salary for the Teachers.

Mr. W. P. Lewis spoke at considerable length; he referred to the inefficient working of the present Road system. Said the roads should be kept in repair throughout the summer season, instead of only being repaired once a year as at present. That the monies appropriated for the Road Service and Educational purposes were the only direct benefits the country people derived from the public revenue. Thought that the money squandered in useless delegations and so forth, would be more profitably employed in improving the state of our roads and bridges and in supporting education. The Government he said had violated our constitution by taking money from the public chest without the sanction of the Legislature. Said the doing so was establishing a dangerous precedent. Mr. L. C. Owen asked if the Executive had a chance to buy up lands, and relieve the tenants from paying rent, had they not a right to do so? Mr. Lewis replied that he wished to see proprietory lands bought up at a reasonable rate; but contended that the Legislature ought to be consulted, with respect to the purchase, as friends of the Proprietors in the Executive might allow an extravagant price for such Lands, thereby causing the tenants to pay more for their farms than they were worth.

D. Stewart, Esq., offered a few brief remarks in vindication of the conduct of the Government.

Mr. J. Parker spoke as follows: Hoped our representatives, whoever they may be, will be liberal supporters of free education. No man who studies the welfare of his children, will vote for any candidate who does not promise to support and encourage general education. The late Government have ruined our School System and beggared the Teachers. Said there can be no truer sign of a bad, illiberal Government than the fact that it neglects the interests of popular education; and this our Conservative ministry have done with a vengeance. Alluded to the negligent manner in which the schools are visited in King's County, as one proof of the Government's dereliction of duty in this respect. "In fact, it seemed inconsistent with the policy of a Tory ministry to encourage education. Tories are synonymous with *tyrants*—and tyrants would keep the people in ignorance, that they might lord it over them. I can't see, he said, how any schoolmaster can say much to uphold the credit of the so-called Conservative Government. He could not consistently do it. Whatever amelioration of the Teacher's position is hoped for, he thought, must come from a more liberal administration. Mr. Parker said the Government were only conservative in name; if they were so in *fact*, he would be a conservative; instead of conserving or preserving the people's interests, *they have betrayed their trust*, and allowed political schemers about Charlottetown to squander the public money, *until they* (the Govt.) have lost the confidence of the great majority of the people.

The following resolution was then put to the meeting and carried triumphantly. Moved by Capt. A. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. J. Scrimgeour:

Resolved, That this meeting approve of the nomination of Charles Clay, Esq., and the Hon. Joseph Wightman, and promise them our support, provided they pledge themselves to oppose Confederation upon any terms; and that this meeting view the nomination of any other Liberals as highly dangerous to the liberal cause; and, *therefore, deem it the duty* of all friends of the cause, who have any intention of offering, to abandon the idea forthwith.

D. Stewart, Esq., then proposed L. C. Owen, Esq., as a fit person to represent this district in the new House of Assembly. The proposition met with slight encouragement, the Liberals being determined to stick by the candidates they have already chosen.

After the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting closed, when three cheers were given for the Liberals and three for the Queen. Mr. Lewis proposed that three cheers be given for Mr. L. C. Owen, as a gentleman, not as a politician, which was heartily responded to.

Herald please copy.

WILLIAM P. LEWIS, Sec'y.

Cardigan, 14th Feb'y, 1867.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

Mr. Editor;

Agreeably to announcement by hand-bills, a political meeting was held at Mr. G. Palmer's, Lot 11, on Monday evening, 11th instant, for the purpose of considering the propriety of soliciting Dr. Grigg to allow himself to be put in nomination as a Liberal candidate for a seat in the next House of Assembly. The meeting, though not very large, was respectable, and was organized by calling Jas. Kilbride, Esq., to the chair, and the undersigned as Secretary. The Chairman having announced the purport of the meeting, Dr. Gregg came forward, and in an eloquent and fearless manner, denounced much of the policy of the late Conservative House. He expressed his belief that the majority in the late House did not carry out responsible Government according to the well understood wish of the people. On this head he instanced the appointment of office-holders, in which the late Government violated their pledges to the people. He said he only wished to deal with the Government as *public* men, and as such not to vilify them or their supporters, but respecting them would simply state the truth. He then gave an *expose* of his own views of what he intended to do in behalf of his constituents, if returned. In a lively and forcible style he entertained his audience for about an hour, during which time he commanded the close attention of the meeting. To Confederation he was decidedly opposed; for he could not see how P. E. Island could be benefited by such a change as that scheme would bring about; he therefore thought it best to leave well enough alone.

Mr. Joseph Murphy *then delivered himself of a* loud and somewhat rapid speech, and *labored* hard to defend all the acts of the late Government, but space will not allow me to enter into the details of his harrangue.

To Mr. Murphy's address Mr. Aug. Callaghan replied, and argumentatively refuted Mr. Murphy's allegations. Mr. Callaghan's manner was mild, but deep and forcible, evidently producing a favorable impression on the audience.

The Secretary also spoke at considerable length.

At the close of the speeches the sense of the meeting was taken of all that had expired, when a majority shewed their wish that Dr. Gregg should nominate on the Liberal policy and contest the Election. A vote of thanks was then given him and three cheers for his attendance at the meeting, and for his intention of proving at the polls his return or not. Three cheers for the Queen and the meeting dispersed.

A. McINNIS, Sec'y.

Lot 11, 18th Feb'y, 1867.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 25, 1867.

THE ELECTIONS.

At the present moment, the prospects of the Liberals are certainly of the most cheering and encouraging character. At the same time, however, it must be admitted that, although they fall very little short of absolute certainty—although complete success is almost within our grasp—we are not yet in a position which gives us an undisputed right "to bind our brows with victorious wreaths." Let not, therefore, we say, our hopes of ultimate and complete success—well-grounded as they most undoubtedly are—induce any amongst us to relax their honest endeavours to secure it. Let no true Liberal retire from the field of contest, or resign himself to confident inactivity, until our rightful triumph shall have been secured. Let it be remembered that the sedative and treacherous influence of such confidence has, not infrequently, been the means of suddenly robbing the conquerors of their conquest, and of securing to the vanquished all that they themselves had just been forced to conclude was irretrievably lost to them. Let vigilance and activity, therefore, unceasingly animate us to the last; and victory, most honorable and complete, will be ours.

The position of the Liberals, at the present crisis, is a peculiarly happy one. Against their past rule, the Conservatives are unable to advance even the shadow of one damaging allegation; whilst all that they can truly adduce in their own favor, is their unwilling and tardy acceptance of the great Liberal principles and measures, which, when the country was under Liberal rule, were most obstinately opposed, and most unsparingly denounced by them. Every thing which can be said to have originated with the Conservatives themselves, has proved either miserably inefficient, or positively abortive; and their attempts at supplementing the best and most approved measures of the Liberals have thoroughly convinced the people not only of the insincerity of their reforming and patriotic professions, but of their incapacity as well.

Just as the tyranny of King John became the source of the greatest benefits to posterity, and procured them the great charter, which was the first foundation of British freedom, so have the misgovernment and want of statesmanship on the part of the Conservatives prepared the way for the immediate and happy reinauguration of truly liberal and responsible rule.

Our path to victory has, indeed, been prepared by our opponents. They have been our most efficient pioneers, and have most effectually cleared away any obstacles which might, otherwise perhaps, have impeded our progress. The unseemly and disreputable strife and contention, which, for some time back, have prevailed among the leaders of the Conservatives, have disgusted many of the most sensible and moderate men of the party; and the consequence has been, either their positive alienation from its interests, or their complete indifference to them. The disruption of the party has, however, been brought about mainly by the restless, but sneaking, activity and unscrupulous scheming of certain individuals, with a view to personal aggrandizement and individual profit. Self complacent and bombastic quackery; pretentious, but spurious, patriotism; and gigantic, but stolid, ambition; have been the disorganizers of the party, and have induced that desertion and that disaffection which have *shorn* it of nearly every prestige and element of strength which it possessed. The fate of the traitorous schemers who have thus destroyed their party will, however, be that which, in the end, so generally and justly overtakes the perfidious and disloyal. They will be taken in their own toils. The result of their "dark plots and inductions dangerous," how injurious soever they may be to some of their late political *confreres*, will be much more so to themselves.

In briefly adverting, as we have just done, to one of the chief and immediate causes of present Conservative political distraction, we have felt half inclined to apply the old sarcastic adage, which declares quarrels amongst members of certain fraternities to be favorable to the rendition of their own to honest men. But we have forehorne to do so, lest the taunt should erroneously be supposed to have been intended for others than those to whom it might, without much disregard of charity, be very justly applied.

CONFEDERATION.

THE transmission, by the Atlantic Cable, of the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament, has put us in possession of the determination of the Imperial Government concerning the very knotty, vexatious, and most important question of Confederation of the British North American Provinces. The paragraph touching the question in "the Speech" is as follows:

"Resolutions in favor of a more intimate Union of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, have been passed by their several Legislatures, and delegates duly authorised and representing all classes of Colonial party and opinion, have concurred in the conditions upon which such an union may be best effected in accordance with their wishes. A bill will be submitted to you, which by the consideration of Colonial interests and resources will give strength to the Provinces as members of the same Empire and animated by feelings of loyalty to the same sovereign."

We further learn, concerning this great question, that His Excellency the Lieut. Governor has received intelligence, by Atlantic Cable, to the effect that, on Wednesday last, the 20th instant, the Confederation Bill passed the House of Lords unanimously.

The opportune arrival of the intelligence on this subject, making known to us, as it does, that P. E. Island is not included in the Scheme, but left at perfect liberty to retain her present free constitution and autonomy, will, we trust,—although it does not further intimate the intentions of the Imperial Government, with respect to the Colony, in view of what will be the changed relations of the Confederated Provinces, our neighbours, to each other,—greatly tend to the tranquillizing of the public mind, as affording an assurance that the wishes of the people have met with due consideration from the Imperial authorities, and that no intention either has been, or will be, entertained by them of forcing P. E. Island into the Union against her will.

☞ We are sorry to observe that, in one or two instances, three or four Liberal candidates are severally opposed to one Conservative. Surely these Liberals cannot be ignorant that, by thus opposing each other, they greatly increase the chances of their Conservative opponents' success. We, therefore, beg leave earnestly, but respectfully, to remind them that the true patriot is ever found ready to make sacrifice of his own personal pretensions to power, rank, or distinction, when it is quite evident that his assertion of them would be detrimental to the public welfare. We trust this hint will not be disregarded by those to whom it is especially addressed.

THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES AT ST. ELEANOR'S.

THE Nomination Day, in St. Eleanor's, on Tuesday last, must be recorded by the chronicler of events in Prince County, as one of the "big" days. It certainly beat Court days, whether Supreme or Small Debt, all to pieces. Election days were never any touch to it. The influx of strangers was tremendous. The inns were crowded, and the shops were full to overflowing. Long lines of every description of winter vehicle, from the gaily painted, varnished, and comfortably robed jaunting sleigh, drawn by a spirited well-caparisoned horse, down to the rickety, unpainted, unfurred pung, at the heels of a scrubby, rawboned, limping nag, whose harness was a queer complication of leather straps, eel skins and rope yarns, might be seen pursuing their way from every direction, at all sorts of paces, to the Court House in St. Eleanor's. People were there from the West Point and the North Cape; from Tignish, Grand River, and Egmont Bay; from Fifteen Point, Miscouche, and Malpeque; from Tryon, Crapaud, Bedeque, South West, Seven Mile Bay, and Summerside; from Margate and New London, and stragglers from goodness knows where. The display of banners and flags, not to mention bagpipes, fifes and drums, was something stunning. A great quantity of rum, gin, whiskey, and other strong drinks was imbibed, some swearing was done, a little fighting, and a considerable amount of talking, though the last was not of the tallest kind. Liberalism was the order of the day. The Tories were no where. If one is to judge from the spirit of the crowd, and from the speeches of the Candidates for Legislative honours, if you were to rake Prince County with the very finest of small toothed combs you would not be able to find one single genuine old fashioned Tory throughout its whole length and breadth. Even David Ramsay, Esq., the man least likely to change in the country, has declared himself to be a Liberal—in principle—reserving for himself, *no doubt*, the privilege of being a Tory in practices. C. Howatt, Esq., came out man fashion, and declared himself an opponent of the Government; there were no reservations nor humming nor hawing about his recantation, he stoutly declared himself against the Tories and for the Liberals. Mr. Laird was more cautious and reticent; but by dint of energetic straightforward questioning, by a very good-looking man in the crowd who spoke as one having authority—which questioning, to do him justice, Mr. Laird showed no disposition to shirk—it was drawn out of him, that though he called himself a Conservative he would not support a Palmer Government, and would support a Liberal Government. In fact, Howatt and Laird came out on the Liberal ticket, and will receive the Liberal support. Mr. Strong, who runs against them, has a very prepossessing appearance. He is certainly no stump orator, but is a fluent and sensible speaker. It was hard to tell from his speech on the hustings what his politics are. He did not attempt to defend the policy of the Government—in fact, no one had the ability or the will to attempt its vindication—but promised, that if returned, he would advocate some very much needed general and local reforms. Neither McLennan nor Green could get a hearing. I think it a pity that people will not hold their tongues while they are spoken to by the candidates. It is very easy for those who don't care about a speaker to walk off and let those who want to hear him, do so, without interruption. To leave an orator to hold forth to the jail-yard wood pile would be a much more effectual way of silencing and of mortifying him, than bellowing at him, let the bellowing be ever so loud and uncomplimentary. However, the loss in this case is one which the country can sustain without much injury, as neither of the gentlemen have anything very new or very original to say on any subject. As every one who wears a cowl is not a monk, so it is much to be feared that everyone who wears the Liberal colors is not a real out and out Liberal. In the first District, no less than five Liberals are in the field, and in the Third, no fewer than four. If some of them were not more liberal by name than by nature, they would sacrifice their own personal ambition to the welfare of their party. There must be something bewitching about a seat in the House of Assembly. The honor of holding such a seat is, as we all know, infinitesimal, and the profit, except to two or three, not much greater. What is it then that induces so many men, living in quiet and comfort at home, to set themselves up as targets for every blockhead in the country to shoot at? Do they consider themselves heaven-born statesmen specially raised up to save the country from wreck and ruin, or are they urged on by an irresistible fate as a punishment for their sins to suffer four years of bodily discomfort and mental anguish? The latter supposition is, when everything is taken into consideration, the more probable one, for one cannot imagine what greater punishment could be inflicted on more than one of the ambitious seekers for legislative preferment than for him to attain the object of his aspirations. What men without ability, without education, without eloquence, and without intelligence, have to do in our halls of legislation, is beyond the comprehension of ordinary people. They will there be as completely out of their element as fishes out of water. However, it is to be hoped that the people will, in charity to such gentlemen, send them home to the bosom of their families, there to pursue occupations more congenial to their nature, and more profitable than making laws for the people of the Island. There is a lurking suspicion in the minds of a great many that some of these professed Liberals are wolves in sheep's clothing, and that if returned in spite of their loud professions, they will take the wrong side. Time will tell.

Confederation meets with no favor in Prince County. It had no advocates on the hustings and very few in the street. The people would not listen to Demosthenes himself if he were an advocate for a Union of the Colonies. The Confederated States must try and get along without Prince Edward Island, for, according to present modifications, its inhabitants will be as violently opposed to Union on any terms in the year of our Lord 2,000 as they are to-day.—*Com.*

NOMINATION DAY.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

	CONSERVATIVE.	LIBERAL.
CHARLOTTETOWN.	F. Brecken, T. W. Dodd,	J. T. Jenkins, P. W. Hyndman.
1ST DISTRICT.	N. E. Matheson, E. Locke,	Peter Sinclair, Wm. Beers, D. Cameron.
2ND DISTRICT.	John Longworth, David McNeill,	H. J. Calbeck, W. S. McNeill,
3RD DISTRICT.		George Coles, Francis Kelly,
4TH DISTRICT.	James Duncan, David Laird,	B. Davies, R. Stewart.

PRINCE COUNTY.

SUMMERSIDE.	C. McLennan, D. Green,	J. A. McDonald, J. Haszard.
1ST DISTRICT.		N. Conroy, G. W. Howlan, H. Bell, S. F. Perry, C. O'Leary.
2ND DISTRICT.	John Yeo, D. Ramsay,	W. Gregg,
3RD DISTRICT.	M. McKinnon, (Moderate Con.)	G. Sinclair, J. O. Arsenaux, J. Ramsay.
4TH DISTRICT.	W. Strong,	C. Howatt, } Said to be A. Laird, } Liberals.

KING'S COUNTY.

GEORGETOWN.	T. Heath Haviland, R. McAulay,	G. Moar,
1ST DISTRICT.	E. McEachen,	Joseph Hensley, E. Kickham.
2ND DISTRICT.		E. Whelan, W. Clarke, E. Reilly.
3RD DISTRICT.	L. C. Owen,	Joseph Wightman, E. Thornton, C. Clay, D. Munro.
4TH DISTRICT.	S. Prowse, K. Henderson,	J. H. Fletcher, M. Rowe.

After the Sheriff of Queen's County had gone through the usual preliminaries,

Hon. Mr. Coles was the first who addressed the audience. He gave a retrospective glance at the leading measures adopted by the Liberal party—especially the Land Purchase Bill, the Free Education Act, and the Loan Bill. He applauded Lord Stanley's speech on the subject of a loan for the purchase of Proprietory lands, alluded to the petition against that measure misrepresenting the financial condition of the Colony, and said that party strife prevented the people of this Colony from obtaining that boon. He was glad to observe that now many had changed their views on the subject of a loan, and admitted its many advantages. He reviewed the principal measures of the Conservative party for the past eight years; the Land Commission and the Fifteen years' Purchase had proved failures, and the only constitutional mode for the final and successful settlement of the Land Question was the adoption of the principles of the Land Purchase Bill. He alluded to the Tenant League movement, and said that had the Government issued their proclamation against it at an earlier stage, it could have been more easily suppressed. He spoke at some length on the subject of Confederation, to which he expressed his opposition. The fishing interests of the Colony, he said, should be fostered; he was opposed to the granting of License to American fishermen, and said that until the American Government thought proper to renew the Reciprocity Treaty, their fishermen should be kept from fishing in our waters.

He was followed by the Hon. John Longworth, who remarked that he would not raise many objections to the address of the Hon. Mr. Coles, though, on some subjects, he differed from that gentleman's extreme views. He also reviewed all the principal measures of both parties since he was first elected to a seat in the Legislature in the year 1846, and said that he always gave his support to such Bills as were, in his opinion, conducive to the best interests of the Colony, regardless of the party from whom they emanated. The Land Purchase Bill, the Free Education Act, as well as other measures, which, in his opinion, were for the advancement of the general good, received his hearty support, as could be seen by a reference to the Journals of the House of Assembly. He spoke of the purchase of the Cunard, the Belfast and other estates by the Conservative party, and said that the principle of purchase, as applied to these estates, would prove self-sustaining. By the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, he said some £10,000 of back rents were remitted, and that of itself had proven a boon to many a poor tenant. The Free Education Act, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Coles, also received his best and warmest support, and he would be ready to support any amendment to that Act that would tend to the advancement of the educational interests of the country. The question of Confederation he also touched upon, and gave his views in opposition to the Quebec Scheme.

Wm. S. McNeill, Esq., said he was not trained to public speaking, as was the hon. gentleman who preceded him, but as a farmer and a native of the district for which he was a Candidate, he felt it his duty to express his views, more especially in relation to the Land Question, which the Conservative party promised eight years ago to settle in eight months, but also had failed to fulfil their pledges. He also was opposed to the question of Confederation, which, he said, had made a split in the Conservative ranks. He felt confident that we would never be forced into any scheme of Confederation against our will. As a farmer, he would do all in his power to advance the agricultural interests of the country.

Hon. James Duncan contrasted the present state of the Colony to the time when, under the Liberal Government, warrants were at 20 per cent discount. The monetary embarassment, so much complained of, was, he said, not the result of purchasing the Cunard Estates, but was owing to the fact that traders and merchants had imported too many goods during the past year. He commented upon the Legislative enactments of both parties, and contended that the Conservatives had done more for the prosperity of the country, during the past eight years, than had ever been performed by the Liberal party during their term of office.

F. Brecken, Esquire, said that four years had elapsed since the people of Charlottetown had conferred on him the high honor of electing him their Representative, during that period he had, to the best of his ability, promoted their interests, and if he was, in any manner, guilty of committing any error, it was, he could assure them, more an error of the head than of the heart. He had always supported the Conservative party and would not flinch from his principles. He denounced the policy of those called the Independent party, and contended that no such party could exist on the floor of the House of Assembly. He replied to some of the remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Coles, relative to the Land Question, and the Tenant League movement. He also gave his views on the subject of Confederation expressive of his opposition to that question.

H. J. Calbeck, Esq., said, that in compliance with a requisition from many of the Electors of Second District, he felt it his duty to submit to their request. He was a supporter of the general policy of the Liberal party, but was not bound to endorse all their acts. He was unfettered and would exercise independance on all questions affecting the rights of the people. He touched upon all the leading questions introduced by both parties, and gave his approval to the measures of the Liberal party generally; the Land question in all its forms, and the Education Act, were the principal topics upon which he spoke. He strongly urged the claims of Teachers, and the necessity of improving or re-amending the present Law relating to Education.

John T. Jenkins, Esq., M.D., said, that though he was in favor of the general policy of the liberal party, he would cheerfully give his support to any measure that would benefit the country regardless of party consideration. As he was not accustomed to public speaking he would make but a few observations. Touching the question of Confederation, they all knew that he was one of the notorious ninety-four who signed the address to the minority in the Legislature relative to that question. He did so and he would not deny the deed; but it was the nature of the notorious resolution of the majority that induced him to sign the address, and not that he would force Confederation on the people against their will. He would never vote for confederation until the question was first submitted to the people at the Polls.

Here a voice in the crowd asked the following question—"Are you opposed to Confederation on any terms, and if elected will you vote against it?"

To which Dr. Jenkins replied as follows,—"Yes, I will oppose the question, and not vote for it on any terms, as long as I know my constituents are opposed to it." He then proceeded to show the necessity of progress and improvement, our roads and bridges were much neglected. He expressed his deep interest as a native in the welfare of the Colony. He was proud to find that the natives of P. E. Island were known all over England and America for their manly and trustworthy character. In every department of literature, science and art, in trade and commerce, in the battle field, and at the yard arm, they made themselves known by real sterling worth and merit. He had no selfish motive nor personal interest to serve, and if elected would do all in his power to prove himself worthy of the trust.

P. W. Hyndman, Esqr., spoke at considerable length, and confined his remarks principally to the Mercantile and Fishing interests of the colony. Any measure calculated to forward the interests of the merchants and mechanics of Charlottetown, must prove beneficial to the whole Colony. He was independent as to party views, and would be prepared to advocate any subject having for its object the good of the community, regardless of what side of the House from whom it might emanate. A loan for the payment of Proprietory Lands, and a bounty for the encouragement of the Fisheries, were subjects that would receive his special support. He regretted to have frequently witnessed the dearest rights of the people sacrificed to party squabbles in the House of Assembly. It was high time that party strife should cease to mar the progress of the Colony. He would not give his support to any scheme of Confederation, until the voice of the people declared in its favor at the polls.

T. W. Dodd, Esq., said that the Quebec Scheme of Confederation was the only one before the country, and he was opposed to it. He was prepared to give an unbiased support to any question for the furtherance of the public good. He felt it his duty to respond to requisition of his fellow citizens. His interests were identified with their own, and he would serve them to the utmost of his ability.

Peter Sinclair, Esq., condemned the conduct of the Government, especially during the past four years, and reviewed all the leading questions affecting the interests of the country. He opposed Confederation on any terms until submitted and approved of at the polls.

N. E. Matheson was opposed to the actions of the Liberal party, and a strenuous supporter of Conservatism. He defended the measures of the latter relative to the leading questions of the day. He was opposed to Confederation.

B. Davies, Esq., spoke at considerable length, and reviewed the measures of Reform relative to the land tenures of the Colony, which he had always advocated. He alluded to the encouragement given to him by the people of Belfast District to appear before them again a Candidate for their suffrages, and as he had every confidence in the stability and integrity of purpose by which they were actuated, he felt bound to accede to their wishes. He was opposed to Confederation, and would like to see candidates pledged against receiving any proposition on the subject for the next four years, in order that no undue advantage could be taken of the people, by any attempt at forcing them into it against their well understood wishes.

D. Laird, Esq., said that, though a Conservative he did not approve of the doings of the Government for the past four years. He reviewed the Confederation question, and said his opposition to it gained for him the ill-will of many Conservatives; but he would be recreant to the best interests of the country if he did not oppose the Quebec Scheme. He would give his support to any measure that would improve the Free School System, and all other questions affecting the interest of the Country.

Messrs. R. Stewart, Cameron, Beer and Locke, also severally spoke, and touched upon the leading topics of the day, but the reporter was unable from the noise and confusion on the platform to give even a synopsis of their remarks.

The High Sheriff then declared the Hons. Geo. Coles and F. Kelly duly elected without opposition.

After which Hons Coles and Kelly severally expressed their thanks to their supporters, and also to the opposition, for that no small mark of their confidence.

After the Candidates had severally addressed the assembled multitude, the Hon. J. C. Pope spoke for a considerable time. He touched upon the differences which had arisen in the Conservative ranks, and the causes which led them to differ. He said he felt confident he could have secured his election in the Tryon district, of which he had been a representative for many years, but it could afford him no pleasure to take his seat with men, with whom he could not agree, and in whom he could have no confidence. He therefore preferred retirement for the present. He defended the policy of the Government of which he had been the Leader, and reviewed the question of Confederation in all its phases, and defended the course pursued by the Government in relation thereto.

The proceedings throughout were conducted in the most orderly manner, and all the speakers were listened to with marked attention. A feeling of general unanimity seemed to prevail, and no angry feelings were aroused on either side. The assemblage was very large and exceedingly orderly.

FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The steamer *Henry Chauncey*, from Aspinwall, with California dates to the 10th inst., arrived at New York on the 31st, with Panama dates to Jan. 23. It was reported that the Brazilian army had gained an advantage over 5000 or 6000 Paraguyans. Honduras papers state that the government of Honduras has entered into a contract with the French government to construct an interoceanic railroad across that republic. A party of engineers under Mr. Davidson, sent out by the United States government to make a more complete survey of the Isthmus of Darien, with a view to the construction of a ship canal across the Isthmus, were in Panama preparing for their work.