CORRESPONDENCE.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

MR. EDITOR:—

The Conference at Quebec, if it has been productive of no other good, has brought to light the talent and capabilities of many hitherto obscure persons. It has given eloquence to the stammering, intelligence to the ignorant, wit to the dull, and profundity to the superficial. The swarm of orators and financiers that have, as if by magic, made their appearance in the most unlikely situations, is really wonderful to behold. The saying that circumstances make the man, never before received so striking a verification. If the American war has not produced its general, the Quebec Conference has created orators, writers, financiers and statesmen by the score. Who, for instance, would have expected that at a meeting held in the backwoods almost immediately after the publication of the Report, that one gentleman would deliver an "extemporaneous lecture on Confederation, clothed in eloquent language, and delivered with much ease and ability;" and that another would, on the spur of the moment, make a speech "both interesting and instructive, humourous and witty." But this is not all; the favoured audience was, on this occasion, privileged to hear a "neat and appropriate" speech from one gentleman; a few very "tangible remarks" from another; "solid and cogent reasoning" from a third, and a speech from the unambitious and unselfish reporter, which, did not modesty forbid him in dwelling upon its merits, he would no doubt have pronounced as eloquent and as argumentative as the most brilliant oration made on that memorable evening. Now, sir, I have attended many political and other meetings in country places, but it has never been my luck to be present at such a one as that described by the graphic pen of Mr. Joseph Murphy. I have heard at such meetings sound sense clothed in tolerably correct English, but I have just as often heard the most unmitigated nonsense expressed in terms neither elegant nor correct. Indeed, at most meetings there is a charming alternation of both kinds of public speaking, and, if I must speak the truth, a rather unpleasant preponderance of the windy, hi-falutin, no meaning style. And such, no doubt, would have been the character of the majority of the speeches delivered at the famous Lot 10 meeting, had it not been for the influence of the wonder-working anti-Confederation spirit.

Some one who calls himself "Common Sense," not duly considering the effects of anti-Union zeal, has ridiculed the idea of a number of plain farmers talking in a style that would do credit to the most gifted members of the highest deliberative assembly in the world, and has got roundly abused for his pains. Letters have been written to prove that he is a "cast-off pedagogue," "a counter jumper," "no great things," &c., &c. Since this is the style of argument adopted by the cogent reasoners of Lot 10, to prove themselves to be profound thinkers, brilliant orators, and astute politicians, and as they appear perfectly satisfied with their own logic, I will, for the fun of the thing, use their own weapon against themselves. We will, to show up the cogency of such reasoning, enquire into the antecedents of Mr Joseph Murphy, the brilliant historian of the Lot 10 meeting, and the sturdy asserter of the merits of Lot 10 oratory. A few years ago Mr. Joseph Murphy was an out-and-out liberal. His zeal in the cause of liberalism knew no bounds. But Joseph was one of those politicians who look well after number one. He calculated the value of his services to the liberal party to a nicety. In short, honest, unambitious, unselfish Joseph had his price. He suddenly discovered that it was for the interest of the Island in general and for that of Lot 11 in particular that he (Joseph) should be elevated to the magistracy. The disinterested Joseph had no personal interest in the matter—not he. The public good was what he considered—nothing else. The patriotic Joseph was not the man to wait for a spontaneous recognition of his merit by the Government. He, with a modesty seldom paralleled, reminded the Government that in Lot 11 there lived a gentleman to whose deserts the world had hitherto been blind, and that it would be only recognizing humble unobtrusive worth to make him Joseph Murphy, Esq., J. P. Strange to say, the Liberal Government did not see the matter in the same light as Mr. Murphy did. The said Joseph then urged his claims in terms more forcible than polite, but the Government, for reasons best known to themselves, refused to entertain the modest Joseph's claims. These reasons, whatever they were, must have been pretty strong ones, for there was not at that time a very plentiful supply of Justices of the Peace in those regions. Ill-natured people say that if Joseph had been at all eligible, the Government must have yielded to his unceasing importunity. But ill-natured people are always saying what they had'nt ought to. The unambitious and unselfish Joseph, disgusted, no doubt, with the obduracy and unappreciative nature of the Government, and despairing of attaining his end by their means, looked about him to find if there was no other way of procuring the honours he covetted than by supporting the liberal party. A general election was at hand, and the astute Joseph saw that by selling his vote and interest to the Tories, he might purchase the long-wished-for honour. Now the said Joseph, your readers must know, is a Catholic; and for a Liberal and a Catholic to band himself with Tories and Orangemen — with the supporters of proprietors and the defamers of the priesthood, was almost to unite religious with political apostacy. Still Joseph was ready to pay any price for the privilege of being called an Esquire. What were his own principles, the honour of his clergy and the sacredness of his Church but mere ideas — airy abstractions; but a seat among the magistrates and an office under Government, these were real tangible goods worth the sacrifice of any quantity of unsubstantial, unproductive notions. The bargain was accordingly struck, and this magnanimous 'Spud' showed his reverence for his Church and his sympathy for the tenantry by siding with the enemies of both in one of the most bitter contests that the Island has yet seen. The apostate Joseph—(I had almost written Judas)—has received the wages of iniquity, and yet he still has the unblushing effrontery to hold up his head among honest people, and publicly to prate about ambition and selfishness. I don't believe there can be found in the length and breadth of the Island a more ambitious and a more selfish mortal than this same Joseph, and one that would resort to dirtier means to attain any object he had set his heart upon.

THAT'S ME.

Somewhere, April 27th, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—The public Square of Georgetown is naturally a beautiful piece of ground, which rises with a graceful slope from the lower towards the upper part of the town. Art has yet done nothing to beautify it, for it is at present disfigured by three public buildings which any man of good taste and money would, if sufficiently patriotic, pull down at his own expense, and rebuild in a more pleasing and tasteful style of architecture. The beautiful forest trees with which nature first adorned this plot of ground, have been all destroyed, and in their place appears the Jail and Court House, which resembles some Lunatic Asylum of the past century; the Academy which appears to have been pitched on to the Square, (probably located at the whim of some local school trustee), with the same regard for its position as is displayed in its absurd architectural proportions, or rather in its want of all just proportion, as well as of all else that could make it attractive and pleasing to the eye. But the Market-house defies all comparison. If you have not seen it, I hope you never may; and then, Sir, you may suppose that it has at least some of the external, if not the internal requisites of such a structure.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have been looking at these non-descript structures for some time past, until I determined in my discontent to take the next contract for a public building here, and erect one in an improved style that might be a credit to our community, and perhaps also cause the Georgetonians to pull down the old structures, and rebuild them in a more sightly shape, and thus follow the good example already set them by the Rector of the Episcopal Church, who has rebuilt it in a much improved style lately.

When I heard that a new Court House was to be built on our magnificent Square, I thought the time had arrived when I should have an opportunity of distinguishing myself, and I drew in my mind's eye a design of what I thought would be a suitable building, not too costly, but such as would be pleasing to the eye, and useful to the country; and, Sir, I searched diligently in the three leading papers of Charlottetown, which I take, for the notice of "tenders wanted to build a Court-house at Georgetown," but none have I seen. I expected that I should first see an offer made of a prize for the best design for such a building, but none has appeared; and to-day I have been told that the contract had been already let—that the advertisement appeared only in the *Royal Gazette*; but I could not credit this statement, so absurd did it appear, until I (after a good deal of trouble) found a copy of that sheet of limited circulation, and there I saw that such was really the case; and not only that, but the plan and specification could only be seen at the office of the Commissioner of Public Works in Charlottetown! Just imagine that a Court-house was to be built in Pictou, and the plan and specification could only be seen in Halifax! Do the officials in the city think there are no tradesmen here who could build the Court-house? I think they must when they keep their plans in Charlottetown, so that no tradesman from here can see them, without losing at least two days of time, besides his expenses in travelling to the city to inspect the plan; and then, perhaps, have but a small chance of being the successful competitor.

How much easier, how much more economical, would it not be for a copy of the plan and specification to be sent to Georgetown, where the Court-house is to be built, and where they could be seen by all the tradesmen of the place who might wish to compete for the contract? I see the same selfish policy which the Government pursues in this case is carried out in all other large contracts.

The Government would save money by advertising such contracts in all the principal papers; in not doing so, they are pursuing the "penny wise and pound foolish" course—a course always erroneous, but more particularly so when taken by a Government.

The policy of the Government will probably have the effect of throwing the job into the hands of some needy, perhaps incompetent, hanger-on about Charlottetown, who may know from some of the officials that tenders are required; but if he only gives us a good building, one that will be a lasting credit to the architect, and that the traveller may look on with pleasure, and afterwards describe as something worth seeing in the Architecture of Georgetown, he shall receive the praise he will deserve from

JACK-PLANE.

Georgetown, May 5th, 1865.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 8, 1865.

THE GOVERNMENT LOAN BILL.

THE Act passed last Session, "to assist," as it is entitled, "Leaseholders in the purchase of the Fee Simple of their Farms," is a measure for the enactment of which the party in power take very great credit to themselves. It authorizes the issue of debentures to the amount of fifty thousand pounds, which sum, it contemplates, may be expended from time to time, in helping tenants to buy the fee simple of their farms from their landlords. At first sight, the measure might seem to be a generous act towards the tenantry, but on close enquiry it will be found to be a mere sham—as worthless as the Land Commissioners' Award, and as worthless, too, as the Proprietors' Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, to which, indeed, it is regarded as a supplement. But before we proceed to expose its worthlessness, we shall here reprint the Act for the information of our readers:—

CAP. V.

An Act to assist Leaseholders in the purchase of the Fee-simple of their Farms.—*Passed April 23, 1865.*

Whereas the creation and continuance of Leasehold Tenures on Township Lands in this Island, have tended to check the progress and retard the prosperity thereof, and it is deemed expedient to aid and assist leaseholders in purchasing the fee simple of their Farms from their Proprietors or Landlords:

I. Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly, as follows: It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to authorize the issue of Government Debentures, to an amount not exceeding Fifty thousand pounds, of lawful money of this Island, in such form, and the principal and interest whereof shall be payable at such periods and places as he shall think fit, but bearing interest at the rate not exceeding six pounds per centum per annum, and redeemable at a period not exceeding ten years from the date of the issue; and to advance the sum to be raised by the issue of the said debentures as an aid by loans to any leaseholders or tenants of Township lands, who may be desirous of purchasing from their landlords the reversion in fee-simple of their farms, upon the terms and conditions contained in this Act.

II. For the repayment of all sums of money borrowed under this Act, and the interest thereon, the surplus moneys which shall hereafter come to hand, arising from the sale of lands purchased under this Act, and paid into the Treasury, shall, in the first instance, be pledged and rendered liable: and the other public funds, moneys and securities of this Island shall be, and the same are hereby in the next place, pledged and rendered liable, subject nevertheless to any prior line or claim thereon by any debentures previously issued by the Government of this Island.

III. The total amount of the aid which any leaseholder or tenant of township lands shall loan from the Government shall not exceed one half the purchase money that he may have agreed to pay his landlord or proprietor for the purchase of the reversion in fee-simple of his farm.

IV. No leaseholder or tenant shall be entitled to any aid under the provisions of this Act, who shall enter into any agreement with his landlord or proprietor to give more than sixteen shillings and eight pence of lawful money of this Island, per acre, for the reversion in fee-simple of his farm.

V. Every tenant or leaseholder of township lands, who has entered into an agreement with his proprietor or landlord, for the purchase of the reversion of his farm in fee-simple, at a rate not exceeding sixteen shillings and eight pence of lawful money of this Island, per acre, and is desirous of obtaining and receiving aid or assistance from the Government to the extent of not more than one moiety or equal half part of the said purchase, shall make a written or printed application to that effect to the Commissioner of Public Lands.

VI. Upon receipt of the said application, the Commissioner of Public Lands shall cause the title and value of the said leaseholder or tenant, and that of his proprietor or landlord, to the said farm, to be investigated.

VII. If, upon such investigation, the title and value of the said farm shall prove satisfactory, the said leaseholder or tenant shall immediately thereafter pay one moiety or equal half part of the said purchase money into the office of the said Commissioner of Public Lands, and, at the same time, sign and execute an assignment or surrender of his lease or agreements to the said Commissioner of Public Lands, and his successors in office, in the form in the Schedule to this Act annexed, marked (A), or in such other form as the said Commissioner of Public Lands shall direct.

VIII. The Commissioner of Public Lands shall, upon receipt of the said moiety or equal half part of the said purchase money, and the execution of the said assignment or surrender as aforesaid, pay over to the said proprietor or landlord, by a check or order on the Treasury of this Island, the full amount of the said purchase money so agreed to be paid by the said leaseholder or tenant as aforesaid, when and so soon as the said proprietor or landlord shall duly execute a Deed of conveyance of the reversion in fee-simple of the said farm to the said Commissioner of Public Lands, and his successors in office, upon the trusts, and for the intents and purposes of this Act; and which said deed of conveyance shall be in the form or to the effect in the schedule to this Act annexed, marked (B), or in any other form which the said Commissioner may think fit, or the circumstances of each case may render necessary or advisable; and such deed of conveyance shall be good and valid in law and equity, to vest the legal estate and fee-simple in the said Commissioner of Public Lands, and his successors in office, subject only to the provisions and directions of this Act, without any entry made thereon, or possession given, any law, custom or usage to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

IX. Immediately after the execution of the said deed of conveyance to the Commissioner of Public Lands, as aforesaid, he shall execute and deliver to the said leaseholder or tenant a deed of conveyance of his said farm, in the form or to the effect set forth in the schedule (C), to this Act annexed, altered when necessary to suit the circumstances of any particular case; and on such deed of conveyance there shall be endorsed a memorandum or defeazance specifying the amount remaining unpaid, and when and how payable, in form as set forth in schedule (D), to this Act annexed, also varied where necessary to meet the circumstances of the case; and the amount so specified as unpaid, with interest after the rate of six pounds per centum per annum, as therein mentioned, shall be, and the same is hereby declared a specific lien and charge on the land described in the Deed for which payment is due, superior to, and having priority over every other lien or charge on the said land, created by the purchaser or any claiming by, from, through, under or in trust for him, whether before or after the date of the deed, rights of dower or otherwise, and payment thereof shall be enforced from time to time, in the same manner as mentioned and prescribed in and by the Act for the purchase of lands on behalf of the Government of Prince Edward Island, and to regulate the sale and management thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and of all Acts in amendment thereof.

X. The Commissioner of Public Lands shall cause duplicate copies of all deeds of conveyance executed by him, under this Act, with any memorandum or defeazance relating to the payment of the purchase money endorsed thereon, as aforesaid, to be made and executed; and he shall cause the purchaser to execute the same, and by endorsement thereon to declare it to be a true copy of the original Deed of Conveyance; and every such duplicate copy of any Deed shall be deposited by the Commissioner of Public Lands in his office, and remain of record therein.

XI. The original Deed of Conveyance, and also the duplicate copy thereof, executed as aforesaid, and attested by the Commissioner of Public Lands, shall be evidence in all Courts in all actions wherein the title of the lands under this Act, or those claiming under them, shall come in question, or wherein any proceedings shall be taken under this Act for the recovery of the purchase moneys due thereon, with interest, and in all other cases wherein it shall become necessary to give such deeds in evidence.

XII. The Commissioner of Public Lands shall be entitled to receive a fee of ten shillings from the purchaser of any lands under this Act, for preparing the deed of conveyance and the duplicate thereof.

XIII. The consideration Money for all lands sold by the Commissioner of Public Lands, under this Act, shall be paid in the following proportions and instalments, that is to say, not less than a moiety or equal half part of the purchase money at the time and in the manner hereinbefore prescribed, and the remainder, with interest at the rate of six pounds per centum per annum on the amount from time to time remaining unpaid in ten equal annual instalments; the said interest to be paid annually with each instalment: Provided, nevertheless, that any purchaser may, at any time, pay off the whole amount of the purchase money, and interest, if any be due, and obtain a full discharge of his Land thereof.

XIV. All sums of money paid by any person purchasing Lands under this Act, on account of the purchase money thereof, or otherwise, when required by this Act, shall be paid to the Commissioner of Public Lands, who shall enter the particulars of each payment in his books, and give the person making the payment such certificate, acknowledging the same, on his part, by endorsement on the back of the deed, or otherwise as the circumstances of the case may require; and the said Commissioner of Public Lands, at the times and in manner set forth and directed by the Act for the purchase of Lands on behalf of the Government of Prince Edward Island, and to regulate the sale and management thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and of the Acts in amendment thereof, shall pay over to the Treasurer of this Island all such sums of money so paid to him as aforesaid, to and for the purposes of this Act, and for the use of the Government of this Island.

XV. If the Commissioner of public Lands shall at any time refuse, or wilfully neglect, to account with and pay over to the Treasurer all such moneys as he may receive under this Act, or to keep an account book thereof, or to allow the inspection thereof, and all other Books, Documents, Plans and Papers, by the Government, he shall, for every such refusal and neglect forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of fifty pounds over and above the amount of any deficiency in the said moneys, so by him payable; the same to be recovered by Bill, Plaint or information in the Supreme Court of Judicature of this Island, to and for the use of Her Majesty's Government.

The first great objection to this measure is, that it leaves the tenant to negotiate his sale with the proprietor. In the cases of nineteen tenants out of twenty sales cannot be effected. The Proprietors, as a class, have a very decided objection to this mode of converting their estates into small freeholds, because they know that by this mode only the best portions of their land would be taken and the worst and most unprofitable would be left upon their hands. Besides, the trouble of dealing with the tenants in their new character of intending freeholders, would be fully as great, if not greater, than that which the landlords have to encounter in the collection of rents, while being less advantageous in a pecuniary point of view. It would be more to the advantage of a proprietor to sell to the Government his lands — good, bad and indifferent—at seven shillings and six pence an acre—which is the maximum price under the old Land Purchase Bill—and have all his money paid down, or well secured by debentures, than to get sixteen shillings and eight pence an acre for an odd spot here and there, by parting with which the value of the whole estate would be very seriously impaired.

The second objection we have to the Act is in regard to the price — sixteen shillings and eight pence an acre. This is entirely too high a price, and would be found to be very far beyond the means of paying on the part of any considerable number of tenants — certainly very few tenants would be able to pay it in the terms which the Act prescribes as to the first part of the payment. It may be said that the tenant in making a bargain with his landlord is not bound to give so high a price as 16s. 8d. per acre,—he may get his land very considerably under that figure, but he must not go beyond it if he would desire to secure the Government help. This is true enough, so far as it goes; but there is no mistaking this fact, that the mere mention of the 16s. 8d. is a plain intimation to the proprietors that such is a reasonable charge for their lands. It is not at all likely that in any sale to a tenant they would ask less, as they would act upon the principle of making their good land pay for the bad, for none of the bad would be bought. The value of Government lands on the Worrell and other estates in the hands of the Government, has been so clearly established at prices ranging from six shillings to twelve shillings and six pence — (the latter being the highest charge)—that the tenants generally are unwilling to give a higher price for their farms; and, indeed, we cannot blame them for this unwillingness. The Government purchases have set a value upon proprietors' lands which all the legislation that can be attempted will not be able to alter.

Then, as to the payment of the first moiety. On a hundred acres the amount would be £41 13s. 4d. How many tenants are there in the Colony who could pay down that sum, together with the rents which have accrued since 1858 — seven years—amounting to, say, £45 6s. 8d. more? We will venture to assert that not one in a hundred could do it. That superlative Legislative humbug, known as the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill, proposes to cancel only the irrecoverable rents that were due prior to 1858. Since that date rents have generally been allowed to fall in arrear, because the Government policy, or the Government cajolery, for the last six years, has been such as to lead the people to believe that the rent-paying system would be speedily abolished. We know that the Chairman of the famous Land Commission—that pretty plaything which the Government dandled before the eyes of the tenantry for a considerable time—declared authoritatively in open Court that one year's rent from the first of May, 1858, would be all that the tenantry should be required to pay. The tenantry have generally taken the benefit of the declaration, and the Tenant League seems determined to put it in force. The League is the legitimate offspring of the Government policy, and if it works mischief we think the Government are to blame for it.

Now, we see that the holder of one hundred acres of land will have to pay down eighty-seven pounds—(that is, presuming he is in arrears of rent since 1858)—before he begins to think of becoming a freeholder; he is also compelled to sign an absolute deed of his farm to the Government for the advance of £41 13s. 4d., being the second moiety of the purchase, which they have paid to the proprietor; and he must return that sum, with interest, in ten annual instalments. In fact, he is a tenant to the Government, very stringently bound, for ten years; and if he be alive at the end of the period, he may thank his stars that he has become a freeholder of 100 acres of land, after paying £128 13s. 4d. besides interest on £41 13s. 4d. for ten years—the interest being reduced, of course, by the payment of the annual instalments. It would be madness to suppose that a Bill which proposes such terms would increase the number of freeholders in the Colony. It will only serve to increase the number of members in the Tenant Union, and supply them with abundant materials for agitation.

Another serious objection to the Bill arises out of the cumbersome machinery by which it is proposed to work it. No less than three legal instruments are required,—1st, a conveyance from the tenant to the Government; 2nd, a conveyance from the Proprietor to the Government; and 3rd, the deed conveying the interest in fee to the tenant when the ten annual instalments shall have been paid. The tenant *must*, of course, bear the cost of all the legal scribbling, if he has the hardihood to have anything at all to do with the affair.

But still more objectionable than any other feature of the Bill we have yet noticed, is the principle laid down in the ninth section relative to the security which the Government are to possess over the tenant's farm in whose favour an advance may be made. It is there distinctly "declared" that the advance made by the Government shall constitute "a specific lien and charge on the land described in the Deed for which payment is due, superior to, and having priority over every other lien or charge on the said land, created by the purchaser or any claiming by, from, through, under or in trust for him, whether before or after the date of the deed, rights of dower or otherwise." This principle appears to us to be outrageously dishonest, and can hardly help leading to the disallowance of the Bill, if it should be noticed at the Colonial Office, as we hope it will be. Why, for example, should Government be allowed to damage the interests of an honest and indulgent creditor, who, perhaps, ten years ago, made a considerable advance to a poor tenant on a mortgage of his farm, and allowed him a long series of years to pay off the mortgage? The tenant, we will suppose, proposes to buy his farm with the aid of the Government advance; and the security of the mortgagor becomes worthless until the claim of the Government is first satisfied. If the mortgagor cannot foreclose, he must take proceedings by ejectment, or in some other way, to secure himself; and thus will he bring ruin on his poor debtor. In short, this section of the Act very clearly proclaims that the tenant who has borrowed money from any private individual, on landed security, must never think, so long as the security is held, of buying his farm with the help of the Government advance. This dishonest principle goes further in its mischievous tendency. It warns the small capitalist to get in as speedily as possible the money he has lent to tenants here, there and everywhere, lest the debtors should take advantage of the offer made by the Government under their precious Loan Bill; and it will prompt the small capitalist resolutely to refuse all loans for the future. This part of the Bill fills the mind of the money-lender with suspicion, and breaks down the credit of the borrower. No tenant will ever again be able to borrow a pound upon his lease, unless he gives a guarantee that he does not intend to purchase with the Government aid—and the loans already effected will be sharply looked after, lest the Government should have a chance of stepping in and making the first haul.

This, forsooth, is the Bill which is said to be a great boon to the tenantry. It proposes to appropriate Fifty thousand pounds to their aid under the conditions we have very briefly referred to. It might as well have proposed to expend a million of pounds, for all the good that will come of it.

THE *Protestant*, of Saturday, has returned to the advertisement controversy. We have no desire to pursue it any further. The smallness of the subject, and the meanness which has characterised its discussions in the columns of the *Protestant*, are admirably suited to the intellect of Mr. Donald Currie, to whom Mr. Laird has very unwisely lent his columns for the purpose of traducing the Colonial Secretary, not thinking, perhaps, that other persons would be included in the clumsy misrepresentations of the discharged clerk. We shall notice two palpable falsehoods:—

1st. "We have it on good authority that advertisements have been certified by some of the departments as service *performed*, and at the same time they were never 'expressly ordered' by these departments."

Here we have a clear, unmitigated falsehood. We deny most positively that any advertisements have been certified, and not "expressly ordered." We dare and defy the *Protestant* to produce his "good authority," or the smallest particle of evidence to support the lying assertion above quoted. Donald Currie has imposed upon Mr. Laird with a mischievous LIE in reference to a small affair; but small as it is, it disgraces the paper in which it appears. Now, we repeat that the statement above quoted is a most deliberate and malicious LIE, and the writer knew when he penned it that he had not an atom of proof to support it.

The second false assertion we shall notice is the following:—

"Mr. Whelan admits that he received £32 18s. for Government advertising in about twelve months."

Mr. Whelan never made any such admission at any time, in any place. We defy the *Protestant* to reproduce the words that convey the admission. It is a melancholy thing to see a professedly religious paper dealing so recklessly in small falsehoods of this kind, that could not possibly serve its interests in any way, and that, as its editor must have known, would be surely exposed. We believe Mr. Laird to be a moral and righteous man, and a keen one withal; and therefore are we astonished that he should allow a perverse, empty fool like Currie to spoil the religious character of his paper by the publication of deliberate falsehoods.

One more quotation from the *Protestant*, and we shall be done with this matter:—

"It is not true that Mr. Laird 'had the sale of the immense supply of school books taken from Mrs. Stamper, without a fault being found with her, and given him.' No school books were ever taken from Mrs. Stamper and given to Mr Laird; he and his partner sell school books imported by themselves, and have not, and never had, any Government books in their possession, *except a few of a kind that are rarely ever called for.*"

We have italicised the last line of the foregoing extract as a fine specimen of English composition. "Rarely ever called for!" Heaven bless us! what does it mean? But mark the disingenuousness of the writer of the foregoing extract. He wants to make it appear that we said school books were taken from Mrs. Stamper by the Government to be sold by Messrs. Laird & Harvie. We said nothing of the kind, and the words quoted from our editorial article show this. We merely said, and still say, that the *sale* of the Government school books was transferred fom one shop to the other.

ACCIDENT TO S. S. COMMERCE.—On Thursday night last the Steamer *Commerce*, of the Boston and Colonial S. S. Line, was disabled off Cross Island — (some forty miles below Halifax)—by blowing off her cylinder-cap, and in consequence the steam-tug *Neptune* was despatched to her assistance, and towed her into Halifax. The freight of the *Commerce* has been despatched to Charlottetown by the Brig *Chebucto*. As will be seen by advertisement in another column, the fine steamer *City of Bath* has been chartered and placed on the route.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

DESTRUCTION OF THE STEAMER 'NEW ENGLAND'—SAD LOSS OF LIFE.

The splendid and popular steamer "New England" was burned to the water's edge this morning, and she now lies at the Ballast wharf, the complete wreck of her former self. Sad to say, three of her crew lost their lives.

As near as can be ascertained the fire originated in the porter's room, either by the upsetting or the explosion of a kerosene lamp—the man being in the room at the time—and although he speedily gave the alarm, and the night watch man had just aroused the crew to their morning duties, yet the fire spread with such rapidity, and the smoke became so thick and blinding, that all of the hands could not escape. The second cook named Jackson, and the third, whose name we could not ascertain, were probably suffocated and then burned. Their remains were found in the cook-house, where, it is thought, they made their way—probably to save some of their things. The baggage-master, Fields—a nephew of the Captain—has not been found. He was last seen by the mate, in one of the rooms, and it is thought that he may have jumped overboard and have been drowned.

The flames ascended up along the smoke-stack, and the soldiers on the wharf—placed to keep deserters from going on board—saw them and gave the alarm. In the meantime, the officers and crew escaped as best they could. It was low water, and there was no way to reach the wharf but by the landing. Haste was necessary. The stewardess and her assistants got ashore in their night clothes. One of the officers jumped out of his berth on the first alarm, ran a short distance, and attempted to go back for his money, which was under his pillow, but the flames barred his progress. Captain Fields, in the clothes in which he slept, ran from his room along the saloon, but he could not make way through the dense smoke that rolled up in clouds. He hurried back, pulled on a pair of pants, threw his coat on his arm and got ashore. He saved nothing else. In fact, all that was saved was the clothes in which each individual got ashore. The highly painted woodwork was as inflammable almost as gunpowder; the curtains, bedding &c., &c., burned like so much tinder. In fifteen minutes from the alarm the fire raged from stem to stern. The hawsers burned through, and the vessel, one mass of flames, swept swiftly down in the current, barely swinging clear of a schooner laden with deals. She took the eddy, however, and gradually came back, chains were past round her by the aid of boats, and she was fastened to the wharf. The steam fire engines were then enabled to play upon her, but she was too far gone. In some places the hull is burned through. No one who has not seen the vessel can imagine the wreck she is. There is nothing but the shell left, the smoke-stack has tumbled over, the boiler is wrent and twisted, the machinery is mixed up in almost inextricable confusion. It would be hard to recognize in this burned and charred mass, the noble looking "New England." Her present condition reveals the fact that she was a boat of great durability — probably one of the strongest of her kind afloat. She was built in New York, and would have been three years old in June. She cost about £30,000, and had no insurance. She is principally owned in Portland and Boston, and a few shares held here.

Several parties in St. John who had freight on board, have lost considerable. Messrs Noble, Littledale and Coram had considerable quantities of fish—the former $1,000 worth. A Mr. Flavin, in Portland, had on board a large quantity of sheepskins. Mr. Bradly, the photograph artist, recently converted all his property here into American bonds, and last night, as he was going to remove to the United States this morning, he placed this in a small trunk with some furniture, etc, on board the boat; of course he has lost all—several thousands of dollars worth.

Several of the crew, including the mate who escaped, were severely burned.—*St John Globe.*

ANOTHER MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT—THREE MORE LIVES LOST.

On Thursday morning, April 27, a party comprising the following gentlemen left the city to visit the country in the vicinity of Lake Lomond, viz:—Captain James R. McLean, Shipping Master of the port; Captain Thompson, ship *Columbia*, Dr. Rathbotham, of the same vessel; Captain George, ship *Hemisphere*, Captain Coullard, of New York; Captain Mortimer, ship *America*; Captain Woodward, ship *American Congress*. After enjoying the scenery of the Lakes, and while awaiting dinner at Mr. Bunker's, the party were joined by Sheriff Harding, who had been visiting the upper part of the Lake. It was proposed by Captain McLean that they should have a row on the Lake near the hotel. Six of the gentlemen got into a large boat, and the Sheriff, with Captain Coullard, into a wherry. The boats had reached a point about midway between Donaldson's point and Jordan's, when, in consequence of a change of seats between parties in the larger boat, it capsized, and all hands were precipitated into the water.

Two of the party, Captain Mortimer and Dr. Rathbotham, swam to the small boat, and were towed ashore by Captain Thompson who had exchanged boats with the Sheriff and Captain Coullard. The other five persons clung to the boat for a considerable time, but eventually Captain George getting tangled in the fishing gear of the larger boat, dropped his hold and was drowned. A short time after, Captain McLean, overcome by exhaustion, went down without a struggle. The next to go was Captain Coullard, who, although apparently in a secure position on the bottom of the boat, in attempting to better his position, caused the boat to roll over and also went down never to rise again alive. When the boat righted again Sheriff Harding and Captain Woodworth came up on opposite sides, and kept it upright. In the meantime Mr. George Stymast and Mr. Robert Grozier, having arrived from the city, caught sight of the drowning men and put off to their rescue, which was successfully accomplished, but not a moment too soon.

Both the Sheriff and Captain Woodward were nearly exhausted, but nothing serious was to be apprehended on their account. The late hour at which we received intelligence of the accident prevents fuller details in this issue.—*St. John Telegraph.*

A late New Brunswick paper, speaking of Railway extension, says:—"We are reliably informed that Mr. Livesey, who represents British capitalists, is on his way back from England, having completed arrangements to accept the proposals of the Nova Scotian Government for extension of railways from Windsor to Annapolis, and from Truro to the New Brunswick frontier; and from thence to the New Brunswick line, by way of Dorchester, under the subsidy act of our Legislature. The work is to be commenced immediately, and pushed on with despatch." We hope the above will prove correct.

The steamer New England, destroyed by fire while lying at her wharf in St. John, was valued at $200,000, and was insured for $75,500.

Hon. Mr. Smith has announced in the New Brunswick Legislature that it is the intention of the Government to bring in a bill to abolish the office of Postmaster General as a political office.

Small pox has made its appearance in St. John, N. B. Two cases have been sent to Partridge Island

NOVA SCOTIA.

THE Legislature of this Province was prorogued on the 2nd instant. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor makes, in his speech, the following allusion to the way in which the question of Confederation was disposed of:—

"The action taken by New Brunswick early in the Session apparently placed a decision on the question of a general Confederation of British North America, to which at the opening of the Session I had invited your attention, under the the disadvantage of leading to no immediate practical result. I am confident that otherwise you would have felt it your duty to have fully discussed that most important and interesting question, with an earnest desire to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government, in every way compatible with the wishes and interests of this Province."

His Excellency then refers to the proposal for reconsidering the question of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces; and it appears that a Conference will be solicited for that purpose. But in the present undecided state of the larger question, we do not see how the smaller one can be entertained. His Excellency says:—

"Under the impression, therefore, that the above circumstances, over which you could have exercised no control, had for a time precluded any useful consideration of the larger question, you have meantime reverted to the project of a Union of the Maritime Provinces, and reiterated your opinion of last Session as to the expediency of appointing Representatives of this Province to confer thereon. I shall have much pleasure in transmitting that resolution to the Lieut. Governors of the adjacent Provinces."

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—We learn from the Pictou *Standard* that a distressing accident occurred at New Glasgow on Thursday last, which resulted in the death of Mr. James Forbes, a respectable inhabitant of that place. It appears that the deceased was going out to his field, in rear of the village, with a horse and cart containing a plough. He was shortly afterwards found lying dead near a gate-way, the cart being upset, and the horse thrown down and resting on the body of the deceased. No person witnessed the occurrence of the melancholy accident, but it is probable that the cart was upset either by coming in contact with the post of the gate, or one of the wheels sinking in a deep rut, and that the deceased was thrown violently to the ground, falling on his head, as, after examination, it was found that his neck had been broken.—Halifax *Morning Chronicle.*

CANADA.

The Hon. T. D. MCGEE, appointed to represent Canada at the Dublin Exhibition, took his departure for Ireland a few days ago by the Steamship Moravian at Portland. Previous to leaving Montreal, an address, got up quite hurriedly, but signed by a large number of persons, was presented to the hon. gentleman, expressing the satisfaction felt by them and all classes in Montreal that Canada should be so fitly represented at the Dublin Exhibition. It added: "We are glad to feel and to acknowledge that here men of all countries and creeds may join in wishing you, who have done so much to promote the welfare and prosperity, and foster the growing manufacturing and agricultural interests of Canada, a hearty God-speed in your mission. And we know that, should occasion offer, you will not fail to reciprocate with our brethren of the mother country feelings of cordial amity and our good will." Mr. McGee, who seemed to be deeply affected at this unexpected mark of public esteem, briefly replied to the effect, that the demonstration, however grateful, was unexpected. He was about to proceed to the country of his birth on private and public business, and they could rely upon it that he would spare no exertions to place the land of his adoption in a proper position before the people of the land of his birth. While his colleagues in England were advocating the cause of Canada in the negotiations with the ministers of the Empire, he would be doing his best to place its resources and advantages in a proper light before the people. In conclusion, he tendered them his cordial and sincere thanks for their hearty and expressive demonstration of their good will. Mr. McGee was repeatedly cheered in the course of his reply, and then had to go through a severe ordeal of hand-shaking, which was speedily cut short by the cry of "all aboard," the band playing "God save the Queen" as the train rolled out of the station, amid the "God-speeds," '*bons voyages*,' and cheers of the spectators.

Canadian papers say that navigation on the St. Lawrence is now fairly open, and the wharves at Quebec have assumed their wonted activity.

GEN. LEE'S ARRIVAL IN RICHMOND.

The Richmond correspondent of the New York *Herald* gives the following description of the arrival of Gen. Lee in that city:—

"Gen. Robert E. Lee, lately commanding the rebel armies, actually arrived in Richmond yesterday afternoon, at half-past three o'clock. The first intimation of the arrival of the Gen. was the call made upon Lieut. H. S. Merril, Post Quartermaster in Richmond, for forage and stabling for twenty horses in behalf of Gen. Lee. Shortly after 3 o'clock General Lee arrived on the pontoon bridge that spans the James between Richmond and Manchester, an opposite town. Here an immense crowd had collected to receive him, and he was greeted with cheers upon cheers, the acclamations of the people, so generously and heartily bestowed, visibly affected him. Whenever he passed Union officers they raised their caps in recognition of his great genius, no less than his regard for truth and consistency in refusing to draw his sword outside of his native Virginia. As he proceeded along the streets to his residence in Franklin street the crowd increased in numbers, and the cheers grew louder.

"The General was accompanied by five members of his staff, Gen. Lee and all wearing swords. As he dismounted at his residence, the thousands of people who surrounded him again greeted him with acclamations, and so many as could get near his person shook him heartily by the hand. One rebel officer, failing to catch his hand, seized him by the extremities of his coat. The good feeling in relation to General Lee was common to both Unionists and rebels, and was fully shared in by all.

"General Lee looked exceedingly robust, and is certainly a most splendid specimen of a soldier and gentleman, with fair forehead, grey hair, bronzed countenance and military beard. He will doubtless see the military dignitaries here, quietly, before he leaves the city again—the taking place of which later event is not now positively known."

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, May 2, p. m.—Steamship *Scotia*, with Liverpool dates to 23rd April, arrived.... Political news unimportant..... The belief gained ground in England, that the rebellion was crushed..... Breadstuffs and Provisions quiet..... Consols 90⅞ a 91 for money.

FROM THE STATES.

NEW YORK, 1st.—The "City of London," at this port, and "Peruvian," at Farther Point, have Liverpool dates to the 21st..... Fall of Richmond had declined Confederate bonds to 17 a. United States securities had advanced five to seven per cent..... The Czarowitch of Russia was dangerously ill..... Sales of cotton for the week 68,000 bales. Market opened at 1 to 1½d. lower, but the decline was partially recovered..... Flour dull, and tending downward. Wheat and corn firm at a slight advance..... Provisions inactive. Consols 90¼ to 90⅞ for money..... A Washington despatch says, the U. S. Consul General in Canada has notified the authorities that all the criminals connected with the assassination of President Lincoln must be surrendered up..... Johnson's army, surrendered to Sherman, numbers 27,500, including Beauregard and many other high officers. .... Gold 145.

NEW YORK, 1st, P. M.—In view of the fact that the rebel ram "Stonewall" is afloat, and supposed to be making her way to this coast, the Government has made preparations to receive her by placing iron-clads in our harbors. The "Roanoke" and other iron-clads, besides a torpedo boat, are in readiness in this harbor..... The *Tribune's* Washington despatch says: Harrold has made a voluminous confession..... It has been ascertained that Jeff. Davis and party have not less than $300,000 in specie with them..... There is a rumour that Davis and others of the bogus Confederacy have been captured ..... $200,000 reward is offered for the arrest of any accomplice of Booth..... Gold 141¼

NEW YORK, 2nd May.—Advices from Raleigh N. C., state that the Army of Tennessee and the army of Georgia, (Sherman's veterans,) will take up the line of march for Washington about the first of May. The corps would remain to garrison the cities captured. The Army of the Potomac is also expected to proceed to Washington..... It is expected that the Federal military force will shortly be reduced to 100,000 men..... The military Commission is engaged in investigating the assassination of the President. A large number of arrests have been made. Proceedings private..... The iron-clad rebel ram *Webb* proceeded down the Mississippi from Red River, and passed New Orleans where her machinery got out of order and she was deserted and blown up. It is supposed she had a large amount of specie and plunder on board—intended to reach Cuba..... Gold 140¾.

NEW YORK, May 2, p. m.—A Washington despatch says the President is preparing a proclamation, declaring all vessels sailing under the Confederate flag as pirates. They are to be pursued, and the crews, if captured, hung..... Gold 140.

NEW YORK, May 3.—Advices from the South West report the surrender of the Confederate Gens. Kirby Smith and Dick Taylor. This leaves no important Confederate force in the field.... The Government is said to have information that 800 conspirators are banded together for the purpose of burning Philadelphia and other Northern cities. Several arrests have been made..... The Confederate iron-clad *Webb* received 170 pound solid shot through her bows while running past the Federal war vessels. She was commanded by Reid, formerly commander of the Confederate steamer *Taconey*, who was captured with 64 of his men.... The remains of President Lincoln reached Springfield, Ill., to day.

NEW YORK, May 3, P. M.—Hon. B. Burton, of Albany, was killed by an assassin at his residence this a. m..... A despatch from Washington says General Wright, with the 9th corps of the Army of the Potomac, arrived at Danville, Va., from Burkesville Junction last Thursday, having made a march of over 100 miles in four days. On the route, and at Danville, he captured a large amount of valuable property, including much railroad running stock and machinery, taken from the Government works at Harper's Ferry by the Confederates..... Gold 141.

On Sunday, the 30th April, as William Larkin and Patrick Heafy, of Bay Fortune Road, were looking for some cows in the woods between Larkin's House and Dingwell's Mills, they found part of the bones of a human body — head and shoulder blades—and the remains of some clothing. It is supposed to be the remains of an old feeble man named Michael Ryan, formerly of Souris, who has been missing nearly two years, and no tidings could be obtained of him. His age was supposed to be about 80 years. They collected the bones in a box, which they interred where they found them. There are some daughters of his residing in Charlottetown, and two sons in the States or New Brunswick. It is thought that the bears or foxes must have taken away all the rest of his bones. Exhaustion seems to be the cause of his death. He was from the Co. Waterford, Ireland.

CITY AFFAIRS.

[Reported for the Examiner.]

Report of proceedings of a meeting of the City Council, held on Saturday last, the 29th April. His Worship the Mayor in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read by the Clerk and adopted. Said minutes referred, among other matters, to a resolution authorizing the City Surveyor to have a platform erected, without delay, in front of the premises occupied by T. O'Connell, on Queen Street.

In compliance with a resolution passed at a previous meeting of the City Council, to the effect that the Recorder should submit, in writing, a Report relative to the encroachments on the shore of the harbor, in front of the lots sold by the local government, under the Act 26th Vic, cap. 8, intituled "An Act to authorize the Governor to sell the Military Barracks in Charlottetown," His Honor the Recorder read a report embracing his opinion on that subject, to the following effect, viz:—

1st. That the Act by virtue of which the lots adjoining the harbor of Charlottetown were sold, does not authorize the purchasers of those Lots to extend their buildings or erections beyond the limits therein stated, that is, beyond the breastwork.

2nd. That by the memorandum of agreement made between His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the purchasers, the lots in question are bounded by the breastwork.

3rd. That the Government were not authorized to make grants or leases of the shore in front of Charlottetown proper, and consequently that Col. Gray, as the leader of the Government, was not justified in authorizing the purchasers in question to build or make erections, either temporary or permanently, beyond the said breastwork.

4th. That the shore in front of Charlottetown proper is, by Act 25th Victoria, cap. 19, virtually vested in the city.

The learned Recorder, therefore, under these circumstances, was of opinion that it was the duty of the City Council to take the proper steps to have these obstructions alluded to in his report removed. That, however, he said, would be a matter of serious consideration; and as these encroachments appeared to have had the sanction, or quasi sanction, of the Government, it might be considered a matter of courtesy to communicate with the Executive Government before having recourse to the intervention of a Court of Law.

A short debate then followed, during which Councillors Morris, Reddin, Theo. Desbrisay, Alex. Brown and W. E. Dawson, addressed the Civic Board, on the subject of the report before them. After which, on motion of Councillor Theo. DesBrisay, the following Resolution relative to the matter, was unanimously adopted, viz:—

"That the Recorder be directed to give notice to the purchasers of lots, formerly the Barrack Square property, who are erecting breastworks opposite their purchases, to remove the same, and to desist from making any further erections thereon."

Councillor J. H. Gates directed the attention of the Board to encroachments of a similar character, in front of properties between Cut-street and Governor's Bridge, and said the owners of such properties should be notified as well as those owning barrack lots.

His honor the Recorder then explained at considerable length the extent and nature of the privileges of parties owning lots fronting on the water; and also the right of the public, which, he said, should be guarded against the obstructions created by private individuals.

The City Clerk then read a communication from Mr. Silas Barnard, the lessee of the City Wharves, applying for an extension of the lease for Queen's Wharf, with the view of enabling the Boston Steamboat Company to make further improvements on said wharf. On motion of Councillor W. E. Dawson, Mr. Barnard's letter was referred to a special committee to report thereon.

Councillor Theo. DesBrisay then called the attention of the Board to the grant of £1000 made by the Legislature towards the erection of a new Market House.

The necessity of immediate action on that important subject was then very generally expressed by several members of the Council Board; and the difficulty of deciding on a proper site for the building of said market house engaged their serious consideration. Several localities were named for that purpose, against all of which objections were offered. The propriety of calling a public meeting of the citizens was also suggested, with the view of arriving at the most desirable conclusion touching that very important point.

During the desultory discussion on that subject, several plans formerly obtained were laid on the table. Among those, a model on a large scale, prepared some two or three years since, by Mr. Silas Barnard. That model was a market house in miniature, 160 feet long, 45 feet wide, and two stories high, besides the cellerage—and was intended to be erected on Queen Square—one end fronting on Queen Street, and the other towards the Colonial Building. A building constructed of wood in accordance with that model, it was estimated, could be well finished at a cost of about £1,500.

On motion of Councillor Theo. Desbrisay, the following gentlemen were then appointed to take the subject of selecting a proper site for a new market house into consideration, and report thereon at the next meeting of Council, viz:—Councillors Theo. Desbrisay, W. E. Dawson, James Reddin, Alex. Brown and John Morris.

After the transaction of some routine business, his Worship the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

Letters which have been received in Madrid from St. Domingo represent the state of the Spanish army in that island as most deplorable. Disease is almost decimating the wretched remains of the Spanish forces, and the insurgents, taking advantage of the condition of the army, have succeeded in inflicting fearful punishment on the already wasted ranks. The accounts just received, however, contain a new feature in this sanguinary conflict. Discouraged by the fearful effects of the climate, by the indifference or obstinacy of the Government at home, and by their inability to suppress the insurrection, the Spanish troops are deserting in large numbers and joining the ranks of the Dominicans.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A MOUNTAIN.—The *Giornale di Sicilia* of Palermo states that a few days ago a solitary mountain near Motta St. Anastasia, in the district of Sicli, suddenly sank down to the level of the plain, leaving no trace behind except a few trees which stood on its top, and are still partly visible. This strange phenomenon is attributed to the volcanic action of Mount Ætna, though the distance is considerable.