long ago, and wished to borrow money. He (Col. Gray) said he could not accommodate him, when the person offered him ten per cent. interest. He (Col. Gray) remarked that if he agreed to take this interest he might lose all. The person then showed him that he had paid not only as high as ten per cent., but even as high as 15 per cent. to another individual. He (Col. Gray) was doubtful whether the clause restricting the interest on securities on land to 6 per cent. did not work injuriously, for though he might be inclined to favor a person who desired to purchase land on this security, yet he could not do so unless to his own disadvantage, provided he was able to procure a higher rate of interest for his money in some other way.

Hon. Mr. COLES thought the Act might be safely continued for ten years. He did not agree with the hon. member for Tryon that the interest on money should be restricted in the same manner as millers' toll. If a miller found that a person had very little grain to grind he might exact at the rate of 100 per cent., and in this way the people might starve; but they would not be likely to starve for want of money.

Mr. COOPER said it would be well to amend the Act by introducing a clause to prevent fraud upon ignorant persons. He thought the Act might be continued; but it would be well that this should be done.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND remarked that there was no occasion to introduce any clause to meet the case mentioned by the hon. member for Tignish. Fraud vitiated any contract, if it was known the person was imposed upon. But if both parties knew what they were doing, he could not see that it made much difference in what currency the money was to be paid.

The resolution that the Act should be continued and amended was agreed to, as also a resolution that the Act relating to Packets sailing between this Island and the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, be continued. The Committee then rose, and the Chairman reported two resolutions come to which were agreed to by the House, and a Committee appointed to bring in Bills in accordance therewith.

House adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr. MONTGOMERY presented a petition from inhabitants of Wigmore road, praying aid for repairing a bridge; also a petition from George B. M'Kay, praying for a balance due him on the contract of a bridge which he built at Richard Found's Mills, which were laid on the table.

Mr. HOWAT presented two petitions, one from settlers on Lot 25, praying for a grant to open a road one mile in length on the old County line; and the other from other parties, praying that the House would not grant the prayer of the last petition, which were referred to the proper Committee.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND from the Committee appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill in accordance with the first of the Resolutions reported from the Committee of the whole House, on the consideration of the report on expiring laws, presented to the House a Bill to continue the Act to exempt certain Bills of Exchange, promissory notes, contracts and agreements from the opperation of the laws relating to Usury, which was read the first time. The 10th rule of the House was then suspended, and the Bill was read a second time; after which the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. Sutherland in the Chair. When the Committee had gone through the Bill without making any amendment, the Speaker resumed the Chair, and the Chairman reported accordingly. The Bill was then ordered to be engrossed.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND as Chairman of the Committee presented to the House a Bill to continue the Act relating to Packets sailing between this Island and the Province of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which was read the first time, and like the preceding Bill, read a second time, after the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider the Bill. Mr. Sinclair in the Chair. The Bill was agreed to without amendment.

Mr. Sutherland having received leave of absence from the House for one week, the House adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY, March 12.

A petition of James Burns, owner of the horse "Saladin," was presented by Hon. Mr. Laird, praying that he may be permitted to take the said horse, now twenty years old, to one of the neighboring Provinces; and the same was received and read and referred to the Special Committee to report thereon by Bill or otherwise. Mr. Conroy presented a petition of divers inhabitants of the western portion of this Island, praying a grant for a steamer to run between Cascumpec, Shediac, Richibucto, &c.—laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND obtained leave to introduce a Bill to change the constitution of the Legislative Council by rendering the same elective. He said it was unnecessary to go into any explanation respecting the Bill, for the arguments which were employed when a similar one was introduced in 1859, were as good still. He would simply state that there was a difference between this Bill and that introduced by him in 1859. The number of Councillors mentioned in the two Bills was the same, namely, 12; but in this Bill they were appointed 4 for each County, whereas the other provided that there should be 6 for Queen's County, and 3 for each of the other two Counties. By the former Bill, the Candidates were to run for the whole County, but by this measure the Counties were each to be divided into two electoral districts, each district returning two Councillors. Four years after the first election, the Councillors for one district in each County—which of the two districts to be decided by lot—would pass out, and a new election for these districts take place; and at the end of four years more the members of Council for the other districts would pass out, so that when the Act was fully in operation, there would be an election in each district every eight years. The property qualification of Councillors was set down at £500.

Mr. HOWAT from the Committee on the petition of inhabitants of Central Bedeque School district, in reference to the running at large of Swine, presented a Bill which provided that in any School district of this Island where two-thirds of the Householders resident therein might so desire, Hog Reeves should be appointed, who should have power to take up all swine running at large in said district. The Bill was then read a first time, and the rule having been suspended in reference to reading bills twice on the same day, it was read a second time, committed to a Committee of the whole House, and reported agreed to.

A number of petitions was then presented, among which was one from divers inhabitants of the north side of King's County, praying for a grant to extend a Breakwater constructed last winter by petitioners, for the improvement of the navigation of the harbor of St. Peter's.

The Bill entitled "an Act to continue the Act exempting certain Bills of Exchange, promissory notes, contracts and agreements from the operation of the laws relating to Usury," was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD from the Committee on petition of James Burns, presented a Bill to authorize the exportation of the horse "Saladin" from this Island, which was read a first time, and the tenth rule of the House having been suspended, was also read a second time, passed through Committee, and ordered to be engrossed.

House adjourned for one hour.

D. LAIRD, Reporter.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, April 5th.

DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL CONTINUED.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I do not exactly like to give a silent vote on this important question; but as there is but one motion before the House, and it is not likely that there will be a counter motion, it relieves a member from much he would otherwise say. There is not likely to be much opposition to the principle of this Bill; but there will be much difference of opinion as to the details. I cannot conscientiously go against the principle of the Bill; because it was to have been introduced by the former Government, though in a different mode. What that Government intended to do, was to carry out the principle of the Canada Act. I will not detain your Honors by entering into the particulars of this Bill. I will have an opportunity of giving my opinion when the House is in Committee. I cannot help thinking that this Bill will not be very favourably regarded by the country. I have not seen a single petition asking for it. His Honor Col. Swabey is surprised that his former friends in the Assembly had not voted against this Bill; but it was the intention of the former Government to introduce the principle of this Bill, and they would have done so if they had remained in power. If my hon. friend had been as long in the Legislature as I have been he would know how uncertain it is to trust to friends in political matters. I will now allude to one or two matters introduced in debate. First in regard to money votes being sent up separately. I have always opposed that, because I think it is better for this House to have all the grants for the public service come up in one Bill. The members of the other House know, that although this House may object to some items in the Appropriation Bill, yet they have no alternative but to sanction them or reject the whole; and consequently that the responsibility of making any mis-appropriations rests solely with them. I think it is far better to allow the Appropriation Bill to come up in its present shape; or else to have the appropriations classified. I will, therefore, as long as I have a seat at this Board, contend against the principle of having the appropriations sent up by separate resolutions. I will throw the burden on the other branch of the Legislature. As there is very little deviation in principle from the Act which is in operation in Canada, where we know it is not popular, and as New Brunswick has rejected it, and Nova Scotia has not had courage to introduce a Bill on the subject; therefore it appears strange to me that this Colony should be the first to try such a doubtful experiment. However, having formerly pledged myself to support the principle of this Bill, I shall not now oppose it; but I cannot agree with some of the details.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—What has already been said by his Honor the Leader of the Government is, in my opinion, an answer to the objections made to this Bill by those who have opposed it. His honor the gallant Colonel appears to be possessed by very alarming fears respecting the loyalty of the propositions set forth therein. Now, I cannot see anything derogatory to the Crown in the people wishing to have the election of the members of the Legislative Council placed in their own hands, rather than in the hands of the Government of the day; for, however the Crown may have the formal power of rejecting a proposed member, it seldom exercises such power; and the result is, that the Council formed by one party becomes obstructive to a Government formed by the other. The people think that they will be able to remedy this evil, and we must admit that they have a right to alter and modify the Constitution; and we must remember that it is subject to Her Majesty's approval, and she will not act derogatory to her own dignity or rights; so that we may leave that part of the subject to the Imperial judgment. His honor has been pleased, in his witty moments, to compare himself and his associates to a company of old women, and very tenacious of life, and not willing to be put to the sudden death contemplated by the passing of this Bill; but I beg to remind his Honor that this Act does not propose to kill the old ladies; but to reconstruct them, a sort of mill that we sometimes hear of that can grind old folks young again; and if we shall have the privilege to pass through this mill, and reappear in our old places, what a pleasure it will be to see his Honor the President and his Honor the Colonel reseated and renewed, especially if certain political crotchets shall be rubbed off in the passage; then I for one shall be most happy to congratulate them on their happy restoration. Upon the object of the Bill, it may be observed, that human nature is a very curious thing, and in its best state is subject to very unequal and one sided action, and this depravity of our nature is never more visible than when exercising political powers; it is always trying to make its own party predominant; it is therefore better, in my opinion, that the people should take the construction of the Legislative Council into their own hands, although it does not appear to be the most proper in an abstract view of the case; yet for the purposes of this youthful country, strongly imbued with party feelings, it appears to me to be the best way. The present Government has been compelled to do a very unwelcome deed, and one that should not be repeated; but it can only be prevented by an elective Council. I further think the present Government is entitled to the character of disinterested sincerity; it now has a good working majority in the Council; but it throws it open to the people to return their own members; the Bill shall, therefore, have my best support.

Hon. Mr. BAGNALL—I will not give a silent vote on this important measure; but I will not trouble your Honors with a long speech. When I first took a seat at this Board, I was in favour of an elective Council, and circumstances have not altered my views; therefore I shall support the motion for the Bill going into Committee. Evidently a difficulty exists which the present Government overcame by adding a number of new members to the Council, and if a new Government came into power they will expect to have the same privilege. This, however, is a very imprudent course, at least the system is bad. I do not think that the Council, as constituted, can be an independent body, and I cannot see any other course but to make it elective.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I have listened with a good deal of interest to this debate; and I expected that some of your Honors would have shown some very substantial reasons for introducing this Bill; but I have not heard any particular reason for introducing such a sweeping measure. If I saw any good reason for introducing it, I would support it; but as far as I can see there is none. They cannot show where one Act has been rejected by this House which was for the benefit of the people. I live in the country, and I never heard a word spoken about an elective Council; but every member has a right to express his opinion. I do not see any necessity for an elective Council, when the Government can introduce five members and pass any measure which they may think proper. The Government is the voice of the majority of the people. All I have is in the country, and it is reasonable that I should like to see the country prospering. There will be a great deal of expense attending an elective Council; and I think the Government can select just as suitable persons at a short notice as the people can. However, if the measure was introduced gradually, so as to receive the Royal assent, I would give it my support; but if we pass a sweeping measure which will not receive the Royal assent, we will blame ourselves. This was not taken up as a party question in the other branch of the Legislature, and it should not be here. I came here to do what is right, as far as I know; and I shall be happy to do anything for the benefit of the country.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I am happy to see the House more unanimous on this question than I expected. His Honor Col. Swabey has been very eloquent in his opposition to the Bill. His first object on was that it would fill this House with proprietors and proprietors' agents.

Hon. Col. SWABEY—I deny it.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—Then I must have misunderstood his Honor. He alluded to the Home Government not passing the Bill; but we have nothing to do with that; all we can do is to pass it, and then leave it to the Home Government. He said we were taunted into it by the people.

Hon. Col. SWABEY—I said the Press.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—It is well known that it was agitated at the last election. As regards this House having the privilege of initiating money Bills, that will be an after consideration, when we can argue it on better grounds.

The question was then put, "shall the order of the day be gone into?" And the House divided:

Contents—Hons. Messrs. Palmer, Anderson, Gardiner, Johnson, Haszard, MacLaren, Ramsay, Simpson, Hutchinson, Bagnall, Walker, Dingwell—12.

Non-Contents—Hons. Messrs. Swabey and Forgan—2. So it passed in the affirmative.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the said Bill. Hon. Dr. Johnson in the Chair.

On the first clause being read,

Hon. the PRESIDENT rose and said—Before the question is put on that clause, I wish to submit an amendment; for although I agree with the principle of the Bill, I cannot agree with many of the details. The amendment which I am going to propose is merely to carry out the principle of the Canada Act; and that is what the liberal Government intended to do. [His Honor then read a clause of the Canada Act, which provides that the existing Council should not be dissolved; but that vacancies, as they occur, should be filled by election.] This is the principle on which I wish to test this House. I do not wish to act for a party; I would act for this Government as well as for the former one. Those two first clauses are the most ungrateful and unjustifiable ever inserted in any Bill. They could only be justified where there was an utter impossibility of the two Branches of the Legislature working in harmony. I have been 21 years in the Legislature; and I have never seen a dead lock between the two branches of the Legislature with one exception. Had any important measure been rejected, there might be some grounds for this sweeping measure; but when every important measure has been passed by the Council I cannot understand why this clause has been introduced, and therefore must look upon it as an ungrateful measure. I have heard that the country require that this Council should be swept away. Now, I am pretty conversant with the country; and I never heard this statement till to day. I have heard the elective principle discussed; and I have always heard the Canada principle connected with the discussion. And when this Bill was introduced I thought it would be on the principle of the Canada Bill. I move that the following amendment be adopted:

"The Legislative Council shall hereafter be composed of the present members thereof, consisting of fifteen members, and who shall continue to hold their seats as heretofore.

"Upon the vacation of the seat of any one or more of the present Councillors, by death, resignation or otherwise, it shall and may be lawful, so soon as this Act shall receive the Royal assent, for His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or the Administrator of the Government for the time being, to issue a writ or writs for the election of a fit and proper person to supply such vacation or vacations as aforesaid. The first writ shall be directed to the Sheriff of Prince County, the second writ to the Sheriff of Queen's County, and the third writ to the Sheriff of King's County; and the fourth and other writs shall be directed to the said Sheriffs respectively, in the same order or rotation, such elections to be conducted as hereinafter provided, and such elective members shall be elected until the whole fifteen members of the present Legislative Council shall have vacated their seats as aforesaid.

"So soon as the whole fifteen members of the present Legislative Council shall have vacated their seats, as aforesaid, then the several Counties in this Island shall each return five members, being fifteen in all, to serve in the Legislative Council, and there shall be as many polling divisions in each of such Counties as now exist for polling of members to serve in the General Assembly, so that all the electors may be polled in one day.

"Each County shall be an electoral District, and each District shall return five members as aforesaid."

Hon. Mr. GARDINER—For my part, I am sorry that a Bill of this nature had not went into operation 20 years ago; for I am convinced that the country would now be in a more prosperous state. For many years the Legislative Council was composed of men in and about Charlottetown—Colonels, Majors, Captains, &c. What did they know about the wants of the country? How long were they in the country before they were taken to this Council? Let the whole be swept away, and let us have a new batch; and they will see where the business of the country has been detained. What business has been done here during the last five or six weeks?

Hon. Col. SWABEY—I think his Honor must be labouring under some delusion when he speaks of the business of the country being retarded by this Board. We have waited for business to come up from the other House.

Hon. Mr. GARDINER—I mean the House of Assembly.

Hon. Mr. WALKER—I wish his Honor would explain how making this branch elective would expedite the business in the other branch.

Hon. Mr. GARDINER—I mean that members who would then fill this House would see why the business is retarded.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Mr. Chairman, his Honor the President has characterized the two first clauses of this Bill as very ungrateful; being calculated to sweep away the present Council, which he thinks should sit and enjoy the fruits of their labours. But I think there is very little prospect of fruit at present. The amendment proposed by his Honor would be a very slow process; and I am afraid it would not satisfy the country at the present time. The Bill might exist for 15 or 20 years before any material change would take place. The consequence would be, that as party feeling would begin to run high, it would be brought to bear upon the Council as constituted. Hon. members have been alluded to as having a butterfly existence. I was going to say in reply that a tenure of that kind is more honorable and more self-sacrificing than if they came here to be seated for life. The gentleman who steps forward when the interest of his country demands it, like the celebrated Garibaldi, and retires when his work is done, evinces a great deal of real patriotism, and deserves the thanks of his country. In the Province of Canada, the Council was constituted under an Act of the Imperial Parliament; and there were good reasons for allowing the members to retain their seats for life; but I am afraid that if we merely pass such a measure here it will not meet the wishes of the country. I am sorry that I cannot give my support to the proposition of his Honor. I do not think it would meet the views of the other branch of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—His Honor says that if the present members of this Council were allowed to retain their seats for life it might be a long time before any material change would take place. Less than two years ago I took a seat at this Board, which was then composed of eleven members. Since that time five changes have taken place, that shows how soon time makes a change. It would operate with this more than with the other branch of the Legislature, because we are nearly all old men. I will support the proposition of his Honor the President; it is the law of Canada. I think that if members are sincere they will adopt it, because I am convinced that the Bill in its present shape will not receive the royal sanction.

Hon. Col. SWABEY—I will support the amendment. I cannot say whether the Canada Bill was amended so as to receive the royal assent; but it is evident that there was some correspondence on the subject before the Bill was sent home. I think that there is no prospect of it passing in its present shape.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I am happy to hear that the leader of the Government is not particularly wedded to the details of the Bill; and if he wishes it to pass at home he will consider it necessary to adopt the amendment.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—I cannot support the amendment. I agree with his Honor Mr. Palmer that it might be a long time before any material change would take place. If we are to have a change let us have it.

The question was then put on the amendment, and the House divided:—

Contents—Hon. the President, Hons. Messrs. Swabey, Hutchinson, Dingwell, Walker, Forgan.—6.

Non-contents—Hons. Messrs. Palmer, Anderson, Gardiner, Haszard, McLaren, Ramsay, Simpson, Bagnall.—8.

So it passed in the negative.

The question was then put, "shall the clause be agreed to?" and it passed in the affirmative. Division same as the above, reversing the order.

On the third clause being read—

Hon. Mr. PALMER said—I do not intend to offer any amendment to this clause, but I confess that I would be better satisfied if the population had been taken into consideration. The population of Queen's County is equal to or greater than that of the other two; and if it had a proportionate number of representatives I would support the measure more cheerfully; but rather than endanger the Bill I will support it in its present shape.

Clause agreed to.

The fourth clause, relating to the division of the Counties, was then read.

Hon. Col. SWABEY—In my opinion, it would be better to leave the whole County open; because, by dividing it, one district might not have persons qualified to represent it.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—We have given a larger number of Townships to Districts which are thinly populated; and besides, it is open to any one District to choose representatives from another.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—His Honor Col. Swabey appears to be under the impression that there is some impediment to prevent members from being chosen from another District; but this is not the case. In the Canada Bill a member must have his property qualification, or his place of residence in the District which he represents; but I do not approve of that course here, as it would be limiting the choice. However, if there is an inclination on the part of the majority to have it otherwise I will give way.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—I think it would be advisable to have a clause of that kind, as the Hon. Mr. Gardiner appears to have such a horror of foreigners.

Clause agreed to.

The fifth clause, relating to the division of Counties, was then read.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON—I would rather see the first District of Prince County stop at Lot 15, leaving Lot 16 in the second District.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I think it has been divided with a view to the population.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I think there is more Townships in the first District than should be. Having plenty of unlet land, it will settle more rapidly. It is better to have a slight inequality for a short time than to have to alter the Act in the course of a few years.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson, the clause was amended by taking Lot 16 from the first District, and attaching it to the second.

The sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth clauses were agreed to without any discussion.

On the tenth clause, relating to the qualification of members, being read—

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON moved that the words "five hundred" be struck out, and the words "one thousand" be inserted.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I confess that I do not fully concur in that feature of the Bill. I have always been an advocate for members of Parliament having a property qualification. I know that the opposite opinion prevails to a great extent; but I think that great benefit is derived from having a property qualification. It prevents adventurers, without any stake in the country, from coming forward, and perhaps defeating candidates who really feel more interest in its welfare. This country has improved very much during the last 15 or 20 years. There are many farmers whose farms are worth £1000, independent of their personal property; and I do not think that amount, over and above all debts and incumbrances on the property, would be too high. A man may be in debt in various places; but as long as those debts are not a lien on his property they do not affect his qualifying on that property. I will support the motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—I am of opinion that £1000 is too high. A man may be in good circumstances now, but he may not be long so; and this Bill provides that if a man's property becomes incumbered he cannot hold his seat. I trust that your Honors will not support the amendment. Money does not make the man; and I think that £500 is quite high enough.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I would like to hear what reason can be assigned why a man worth £500 is not as fit to hold a seat here as one worth £1000. I cannot support the amendment, because it might prevent many good men who are otherwise qualified from serving their country.

Hon. Mr. GARDINER—A man worth only £500 cannot afford to come here and support himself as we are doing. £500 is very low for a farmer.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—I certainly think that the qualification is very low at £500. If we wish to make this House independent, it should be filled with men in independent circumstances. I would rather see no qualification at all than see it less than £1000. I will support the amendment.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I would support the amendment if it was not that I am aware that an hon. member is going to propose an amendment to confine a member's qualification to the District which he represents.

The question was then put on the Hon. Mr. Anderson's amendment, and it passed in the affirmative.

From the 10th to the 22nd clause was agreed to without any discussion.

On the 23d clause, relating to the term for which members shall be elected, being read—

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL said—I do not understand that clause. Does it mean that the Legislative Council shall sit here under the authority of the Crown, and that in case of a dead lock the House of Assembly would have to give way?

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I think that provision is requisite. It would not do to have both Legislative bodies in the same country, possessing similar rights and privileges. If it were so we might as well dispense with the two separate halls. This is to render them, in some respects, a little similar to the House of Lords. As the Crown shall not have power to appoint, therefore it should not have power to dissolve the Council. They should feel their independence at least for eight years.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—I approve of that clause. If the Crown had power to dissolve the Council, it would destroy its independence.

Hon. Mr. WALKER—That is the principal objection I have to the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—It gives the people no controul over this House for eight years. They would be obliged to support the same opinions in the House of Assembly during that time.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—That is provided for by a part of them being elected every four years.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I think there is a little inconsistency in two of their Honors who have just spoken. When the principle of the Bill was discussed they thought it was impolitic to disturb the present Council in their seats during life; now they think the Crown should have power to dissolve them at any time.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—As this Council is now constituted, it is subject to a certain degree of controul. The Government have the power to make appointments; but when it is made elective it will be placed above the power of both the Crown and the people for eight years.

Clause agreed to.

The four following clauses were agreed to without any discussion.

The House was then resumed.

Message from the House of Assembly by Mr. Beer, with a Bill intituled "an Act to amend the Act to incorporate the City of Charlottetown."

House adjourned.

Correspondence.

(No. 8.)

SIMON PURE, Esqr., *alias* ABERDUMBEE, TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE DUNDAS, Esqr., LIEUT. GOVERNOR—GREETING.

Your Excellency will perceive at once, by the above, that I am of so obliging a disposition that I have changed my signature, to oblige one of your advisers who appears to entertain a great dislike to my real name, and says I am the real "Simon Pure;" but after I shall tell him and his conferees as many plain, simple, undeniable, palpable *facts* from the pen of my new designation as I have from "Aberdumbee" himself, I fear he will call "Simon" as many bad names as he has called "Aberdumbee;" for it is a predominant passion with all petty mischievous tyrants, who trade in deception, where they dare not attempt to accomplish their malicious purposes by force, to hate the *publication of their misdeeds*. "Simon Pure" has, however, a sacred duty to perform on behalf of the poor tenantry, whose representative he claims to be, and that is to expose and make known the cunningly devised machinations of as worthless and deceitful *a gang* as ever were united to inflict misfortune and disgrace on a British Colony by their bungling, equivocating and shuffling conduct.—aye, conduct which brought many better men to the gallows. And like most abandoned reckless creatures, their last act towards your Excellency has been the most atrocious of all. But it often happens with such persons, possessed of small minds with much cunning, that the very means which they adopt to *whitewash* or screen themselves from the contempt which they justly merit, only tend to render their guilt more apparent. Their tremendous treachery to your Excellency in compelling you to write *that* letter to Mr. Palmer, the leader of your Government, ought to have filled their cup of iniquity to overflowing, and ought to have earned for them the full benefit of a dissolution, which would soon enable your Excellency to surround yourself with advisers who would rather defend you than try so *lasely* to degrade you to their own standard as much as possible. What an immaculate crew, who could not bear even to be *jested* about the trifling error or mistake of *one day* in the date of the despatch to the Duke of Newcastle! It shows not only to your Excellency, but to every thinking man in the Colony, how they would treat you if you were in their power; and proves conclusively that they would, if they could, place on your Excellency the abominable and everlasting disgrace of the perfidy of retaining the "Act to give effect to the award of the Commissioners on the Land Question" here from *first of May to first of October*, without sending it to England to get the Royal assent until they got up the memorials against it, and through which it was refused. Now, any person knows that the trifling error of *one day* in the date of the despatch bears no more proportion to the *enormity of the guilt of keeping the Act here from first of May to first of October than the smallest grain of sand on the shore does to the rock of Gibraltar*, and hence how eagerly they would grasp the opportunity to compel your Excellency to "whitewash" them from that infamous plot of fiendish rascality, were it in their power. Just like the *hypocrites* mentioned in holy writ, *they would strain at the gnat and swallow the camel*. This consideration alone, I trust, will exonerate your Excellency from personal complicity in that great, that terrible fraud on the tenantry of preventing that Act to become the law of the land. And it was only "throwing pearls to swine" for your Excellency to spare them from the scourge which they so richly merited—that you did not, when writing under their most barbarous and inhuman pressure about that discrepancy in the date of the passage of the Bill, which they have called the "lying" despatch—inform the world at large that it was *their own* negligence, incapacity and horrible duplicity, if not downright villainy, that caused that Act not to be forwarded to England in time to have it passed, ere the land claimants had time or opportunity to petition against it. It is notorious that it was the business of the leaders of your Government to hand you the Act in question, without delay, and to request your Excellency to forward it with the proper reasons why it should pass, and they not having done so, you would have served them properly by applying the "lax talionis" and compel them to sign a letter similar to yours, exonerating your Excellency from all blame in the rascality of withholding that Act so long. And as such ingratitude and tyranny on their part can never be overlooked by your Excellency, their prompt dismissal from office, and calling to your assistance those who have the welfare of the tenantry at heart, and in whom the people have confidence, and then dissolving the Assembly, the same as Governor Bannerman did in Newfoundland, would be one of the most equitable and popular acts of your Excellency's Administration; and the hurricane of indignant scorn which they would meet at the hustings, more resistless than the Alpine torrent, would consign them to that eternal oblivion which nature and their own rampant misdeeds so well fit them for, and be ample satisfaction for the wretched baseness and cruelty perpetrated on your Excellency in that "lying" concern. But a little reflection will clearly show whence this little "tempest in a teapot" originated. The Colonial Secretary, W. H. Pope, in his editorial in the *Islander* of 5th April, 1861, after part of a laboured article and report of Mr. Coles' speech on the occasion of the "lying" despatch, says: "It is denied by Mr. Coles and his friends that any personal charge was made against His Excellency. Every member of the majority and numerous gentlemen outside the bar, at the time Mr. Coles spoke, assert most positively that the accomplished Leader of the Opposition did accuse His Excellency of falsehood and lying.

"The question is one which immediately concerns ourselves. We reported that he did so—that we had heard him—and declared that we could not be mistaken."

Here, then, your Excellency has a sad specimen of the malice of the "old Compact," whose *mischievous tool* your Col. Secretary is. After the lapse of five or six weeks, during which period what your Excellency did write, and what Mr. Coles said respecting it, had remained *unpunished*; and your Excellency, who ought certainly to be the best judge of what should be considered an offence, either personally, politically, or officially—in true Christian forbearance, characteristic of yourself and your amiable lady, *without consulting or asking leave* of your political advisers, invited some of Mr. Coles's family to participate in the hospitality of Government; and for this *daring* act, this terrible crime, against *the mightiness and high hereditary descent* of your advisers, the subject must undergo *a Parliamentary enquiry*, and then and there by *force of numbers*, declare that Mr. Coles had used the word "lie," and that consequently your Excellency *dare* not forgive Mr. Coles, nor admit himself or family to Government House; and must moreover *whitewash* your immaculate advisers by publicly pronouncing that the dear innocents; no, not even the smallest of them, ever told a lie, and must not even be supposed to be capable of telling a lie, and that they had no part in the lie; but even this is not all, but they have compelled your Excellency to prove under your own hand that Mr. Coles himself *did not* tell a lie, when he said *that your Excellency's despatch contained a lie!!* A person not acquainted with the antecedents of the Colonial Secretary, from reading the above extract would be led to think that *he* was the person offended, because he says "we reported that he did so;" but he well knew that no person would believe it the sooner because *he* asserted it, and therefore *he* would fain pretend that it was *he* who caused the great *Parliamentary enquiry*, and that *his* majority in the House declared that for *once* in his life they believed he wrote the truth. But I trust your Excellency does not forget that I cautioned you before that this very man was forced on you as Colonial Secretary, as *the mere Jackal—the Paul Pry* of his long established masters, the rump of the old Compact, to act as a spy on all your Excellency's movements, and to make you aware of the risk you incur by permitting any person to move within a respectful distance of Government House, without the sanction of the "Compact" first had and obtained. And I beg to assure your Excellency, in the unaffected accents of pure sincerity, that a keen sense of this cruel, this monstrous indignity so wickedly and so wantonly imposed on you by those who should be your Excellency's protectors, is felt by thousands of honest men and women who never saw yourself or your accomplished lady, and who earnestly wish to see your Excellency from under the controul of such barbarous conduct. And be assured you have the power if you only have the will, to free yourself *for ever* from such thraldom, by simply dissolving the Assembly, and thereby abate the *nuisance*.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

"SIMON PURE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I perceive by the *Islander* of the 5th inst., that a new set of champions have arisen in this district to fight the battles of the Government, in the persons of John Murphy Dan Mooney, Owen Clerkin, and four or five others. Such characters as the *gentlemen* just named were much needed here by the Government. For although a large majority of the people still repose confidence in Col. Gray, yet they are far from satisfied with the acts and general policy of the present Government. It would, therefore, in my opinion, be quite impossible to find, in the whole district, any persons other than the above named, so utterly devoid of all manly principles as to be capable of such an act of folly as that perpetrated by them, when they, at the request of Sandy McLean, signed that letter which stands over their signatures in the *Islander* of the 5th instant.

Not satisfied with offering their meed of blarney to the Lieut. Governor and Col. Gray, they, the "Tooley Street *tailors*" of Montague, set themselves up as dictators to all the rest of the tenantry, by telling them to "exert the patience," &c. What right have they thus presumptuously to insult the rest of the tenantry of P. E. Island? Are they so void of common sense as to imagine that the most wretched of the tenantry are, in any point, inferior to themselves? Do they suppose that all the rest of the tenantry are mere *misguided, benighted, untaught* fools, and that all the wisdom of the country is concentrated in their own stupid sculls? Do they imagine that they, men who do not know their own rights nor the rights of others, are capable of giving advice to the tenantry of P. E. Island, on a matter of such vast importance—the Land Question? Let me tell them that there have been men, and that there are still men among the tenantry of P. E. Island, who know their rights, and who have stood for their rights, and who will still contend for them; and who oppose a dishonest the measures and policy of the present Government in reference to the Land Question—who are, in every point and in every sense, as much superior to the "Tooley Street *tailors*" of Montague—with Sandy McLean and John Murphy at their head—as the pure fountain is to the foul cesspool.

The "Tooley Street *tailors*" of Montague also say that "they have a convincing proof that the present Governor possesses more influence with the Imperial Government than any of his predecessors, from the fact of his influence and exertions in purchasing the estate on which they reside, and assisting in obtaining the sanction of the Imperial Government and the greater number of the large proprietors to submit the Land Question to arbitration." Now, let us see what amount of truth is contained in this paragraph of their letter. First, as to his "influence with the Imperial Government." He has not as yet obtained the Royal "sanction" to *any one* act requiring such, that I am aware of, and sent home for that purpose, during the two years he administered the Government of this Island. Second, as to the purchasing the Belfast Estate, his "exertions and influence" both would be powerless for any good were it not that the Land Purchase Act had been passed by the Liberal Government, and in operation at the time, to enable the present Government to purchase the Land; and with reference to the Land Commission, the whole world knows that those famous resolutions introduced by Col. Gray in the Session of 1859 and sent home by the Government in the summer of that year, accompanied by an address from the House of Assembly, would not be looked at by the "Imperial Government." The Duke of Newcastle declared, in a Despatch to the present Governor, that he could not advise Her Majesty to "sanction" either the address or the resolutions. And whatever amount of good or of evil may result from the Land Commission, it is altogether attributable to the action of the Duke of Newcastle himself, and not to the "influence of the present Lieut. Governor or his Council.

Further on in their letter the "Tooley Street *tailors*" of Montague repeat the *bullying* threat contained in the "famous Belfast address," by offering their services to the Government, "to resist and suppress," that is to crush all, and every body who may have the honesty to speak out publicly their sentiments condemnatory of the corrupt and tyrannical policy of the tory faction who now rules, or rather misrules, the destinies of the Colony. This part of their letter is so supremely absurd that I deem it unworthy of any further comment.

At the end of their letter, the "Tooley Street *tailors*" of Montague, under the direction of their *Grand Master* and Captain General, "Sandy Somesing," vent their foul-mouthed malice at the Editor of the *Examiner*—the man, above all others, of whom they have every reason to be proud, and to whom they ought to be forever grateful—the man who frequently and successfully defended their "country and their creed" against the calumnious attacks of the bigoted faction of whom Sandy McLean and Jack Murphy are now the willing tools.

It will be easily perceived what the motives were which induced "Mr. Smith the Teacher" and Dan Mooney, the keeper of a Shebeen house at Montague, so readily to proceed to the upper settlement to obtain signatures to "the address." Mr. McLean, as I am informed, acted as a sort of half School Visitor, under Arbuckle, in some of the Belfast settlements during the past winter, as Donald McLeod, "Stone House," did in Lot 50, during the winter of 1860. This will at once account for the alacrity with which "Mr. Smith the teacher," who is not the best "teacher" in the world, but who, no doubt, considered that McLean's "influence" might be of some service to him hereafter, went to obtain the signatures to the "famous Belfast address." As for Dan Mooney, John Conly, Owen Clerkin, &c. they are so often in Court with bad cases, the favour of Sandy McLean and John Murphy would be of such importance to them that they would not lose it on any consideration.

John Murphy must have felt quite big when he first saw his letter printed in the *Islander*. For "some persons love to see themselves in print," and from the number of capitals it contains and their frequent misapplication, I am quite willing to give John Murphy *himself* full credit for its authorship. Sandy McLean would have certainly made a better job of it. As it is, however, I am sure it will "astonish the natives," who, on seeing it, will be sure to exclaim:

"But, John, o' late ye's so decernin',
Folk wonder where ye got the learnin',
Wi' "arrears o' rent" and "eight year's" earnin'
Ye mak' us stare;
The critics noo maun tak' a warnin',
And shun thy snare."

But after all, Mr. Editor, it is, perhaps, difficult to ascertain what were the motives which induced Mr. Murphy to pen his celebrated letter. Impelled by his inspiring genius, he might, perhaps, be desirous of becoming an author. But I believe the great and all-prevailing motive with Murphy was a desire for Government employment, that is a desire for "*morefee*." Persons were to be appointed to take the census, and Murphy wished to be one of them; and as it would be highly desirous that a fair specimen of his handwriting and powers of composition should be submitted to the inspection of "Col. Gray and the Governor," would it not be quite reasonable to conclude that the latter motive was the one which prevailed with Murphy? But alas! for all human expectation John Murphy was disappointed? When Sandy McLean was entrusted with the distribution of the Government garbage in Belfast, he took good care that he would share with Murphy