

"What a sad?" demanded M. D. Edrich.
 "My frightful office done," pursued the headman, "I was not even allowed time to wipe the blood from my sword; another performed that duty for me; while I was hastily constricted back to the saloon where food had been before provided for me, and where I now found the table crowded with the rarest wines. I saved myself for an instant in order to regain composure, but I was too sick at heart to avail myself of the proffered refreshments; and in a short time my masked companions and myself were once more in the carriage. We travelled on without halting, save to change horses at the several stages where relays had evidently been awaiting us, and where we were never detained beyond a few minutes, throughout that night and part of the following day; and in about twenty hours, as before, we stopped in front of my own house, where I was assisted to alight, and a canvas bag containing two hundred louis was placed in my hands. I have brought them with me, *monseigneur*, that you may make whatever use of them you think best. I was then warned never to reveal any circumstance connected with the event in which I had been so unwillingly and fatally an actor, on peril of my life; and assured that if I obeyed this injunction, my silence should be richly compensated: "while if, on the contrary, you seek to penetrate a mystery in which you cannot have an interest, and to which you can never obtain a clue," added one of my companions, "the very attempt will prove your own destruction, as well as that of those to whom you have been rash enough to confide your secret." With this assurance the strangers drove off, leaving me standing in the road. I waited a short time, listening to the sound of the receding wheels; and then, as it died away in the distance, I withdrew the handkerchief, and joyfully crossed the threshold of my own home.
 (To be Continued.)

Correspondence.

ELECTION IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF PRINCE COUNTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—The excitement of the General Election being at an end, it may not be amiss for me to make a few remarks on the state of parties in the second district of Prince County, and they are alike applicable to other parts of the Island. The election has resulted in the return of two Tory candidates, Messrs. John Yeo and David Ramsay, both the nominees of James Yeo, Esq., of Port Hill, and returned through the influence of his ledger and sectarian prejudices combined. I was told by some of the Presbyterians the reason they voted against me was, that I was against the Bible, and that I went so far as to forbid my children the use of God's Word in my own house. I brought this degrading falsehood home to Mr. Ramsay, whose only reply was that he heard it himself, but from whom he did not say. I have to thank those independent electors who voted for me in all the Townships, including Lot 11, where I polled a greater number of votes than my opponent, for their support; but there are a few miserable beings on that Township—some of them turn-coats, because they were unable to secure a plurality of offices to themselves—others who were largely indebted to me for benefits conferred upon them, including free land—and others who voted against me through fear, who merit the contempt of every independent man. Many of these men expect office from the Tories, and must be provided for, if their support is to be expected for the future; but, for the most part, the ledger will do as well with them.

I may here remark, that the two successful candidates, or their representatives, held political frolics at Lots 8 and 9 up to the day of election, and brought their independent voters to the hustings in a glorious state of uncertainty whether they stood on their heads or their heels. One man on Lot 11 declared, in the presence of several of his neighbours, that Mr. Yeo threatened to turn him out of house and home if he did not vote for his nominee as well as for himself; and I have in my possession the copy of a threatening letter addressed to a voter last year by Mr. Yeo, which I would have brought to the notice of the House had I been returned as one of its members. I have long thought, and I believe a large majority of the people of this Island are of the same opinion, that so long as members are returned to the Assembly through proprietary and ledger influence, we can never have an independent Assembly; and unless vote by ballot is resorted to, these influences must prevail, and all measures calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of the people stand a chance of being defeated in the Legislature; and should they even pass its three branches, a secret influence repugnant to the constitution is at work at the Colonial Office sufficient to destroy them, unless the people combine to resist it.

It is unnecessary for me to recapitulate the liberal measures passed during the last eight years; but it is well to let the people know that they were all opposed by the Tory party in the Legislature; and after they were finally passed, they were petitioned against by the same faction.

I remain, yours truly,

J. WARBURTON.

Charlottetown, March 28, 1858.

THE QUIT RENT QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—I pass by the personalities of the *Islander*, in its last issue, as things which can do me no harm and itself no good.

The editor of that paper, in quoting words used by me in a recent number of the *People's Journal*, says:—

"The remarkable want of truth imputable to the *Islander* and proprietary phalanx can never be better exemplified than by the following, with feeble endeavour at a refutation of the facts and documents published in this paper respecting the Quit Rents. It has the following proclamation from Lt. Governor Smith:—'Whereas by my proclamation issued on the 1st day of October, 1816, it was notified that it was intended on the part of the Crown to fix a scale for the future payment of Quit Rents, and that a new Rate of Quit Rent would commence on the 25th June in that year, and that the first half-yearly payment would be demanded on the 25th day of December following.' This veracious editor then leaves out the words which overthrow his whole statement, which are as follows:—'And that if payment shall be neglected or withheld by any proprietor, measures would be taken to resume immediate possession of the Land on the part of the Crown.' Than this a more barefaced falsehood could not be written. The proclamation of Lieut. Governor Smith was copied verbatim from the Prince Edward Island Gazette of the 22d August, 1818. The original Gazette lies in our office, and may be seen by any person who may think proper to call and read it."

This being the case, I exonerate the *Islander* from originating this fraud on the public, as in justice bound to do; but the whole case is thereby strengthened, for the words of the proclamation of 1816, omitted in that of 1818, can be seen in the minutes of Council of October of 1816; and what is the conclusion forced on us? Why, that either the Lieut. Governor, the Council, the Clerk of Council, or the Queen's Printer, mutilated the proclamation of 1816, which was professedly inserted in that of 1818, thereby affording additional proof, if any were wanting, of how a whole people can be imposed on by an irresponsible Council. I must further observe that the Proclamation of 1818 is not to be found in the Council books of that date, though its being found in the *Gazette* certainly proves its existence. Here again is an instance of how business was done by an irresponsible Council. I felt it due to the *Islander* to make this statement without delay.

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SWABEY.

ELECTION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR.—It was supposed, up to the evening of the 24th, that Mr. Thornton and Mr. Ronald Walker stood at the head of the poll for the third district; but the Sheriff having decided against receiving two votes which were counted for Mr. Walker, namely, one polled in Queen's County, and one on the special returns from the district, whose name did not appear on the poll book as an officer, the state of the poll was declared as follows: Thos. Owen, 442; E. Thornton, 609; Ronald Walker, 441. Before the expiration of the hour, Mr. Walker came to the Sheriff's desk, holding in his hand a list of names, which he considered had, polled in wrong places, and publicly demanded an investigation. Shortly after, Thomas Owen demanded in writing an investigation, on the ground that Michael Power had voted more than once; and the time and place were declared, according to law, for commencing the investigation. The first vote taken up was that of Michael Power, who, it was clearly proved, had first voted in Lot 51, the polling division wherein he resides, and consequently was entitled to vote; and subsequently in Lot 52, where he had property, but no right to vote because he resided in another polling division in the same district. The next vote questioned was that of Malcolm McDonald, a young man belonging to Queen's County, who had lived for twelve months with a person in the first polling division, but on the 10th of February last, his time being expired on Lot 51, engaged and went to live with Mr. Watson, on Lot 52, in the second polling division, which, as the law requires every resident in the district to vote in the polling division wherein he resides, was clearly contrary to law. The vote of George Sentener was then questioned, but as it was proved the voter laid claim to property in the district and polling division wherein he voted, his vote could only be considered under a general scrutiny. The vote of John Plyer being next called, and the friends of Mr. Owen seeing that they were likely to be defeated in getting their candidate returned by the Sheriff, rushed to his rescue, by making affidavit that Mr. Walker demanded an investigation of the vote of Malcolm McDonald only. I will forbear to make any further remark on this matter than to give their names to the public, who, knowing the facts, will judge these self-styled gentlemen and champions in the cause of truth: Frederick P. Norton, John Goff, Fide Goff, A. C. Stewart, and L. C. Owen. The Sheriff referred to the entries in the Clerk's book, and then quietly proceeded to hear evidence on the vote, which proved that the man voted on the Statute Labour qualification; that he had formerly resided in the district, but had sold his place and moved to another district some few months previous, where he now resides with his wife and family.

The next and last vote questioned was that of Alexander Hamilton, a young man, apparently afraid to present himself in the polling division where he resided, and was known on account of his youth, but went to the next polling division, wherein he claims land. The evidence in this case on Mr. Walker's part proved clearly that the young man lived with his brother, on Lot 52; that the line of Lot 51 passes through their farm, leaving the house and premises on Lot 52, and a small corner of the farm on Lot 51. Mr. Owen first attempted to prove that this portion of the farm which was on Lot 51 probably belonged to Alexander Hamilton, until told by the Sheriff that he only wanted to find out which Lot the man resided on, when several witnesses were offered by Mr. Owen to prove to where an old line had passed, leaving Hamilton on Lot 51; but as the whole evidence tended to corroborate the hitherto well understood fact that Hamilton resided on Lot 52, his vote was evidently polled in a wrong division.

After waiting the usual time, the Sheriff again cast up the votes, and declared the state of the poll as follows: Thomas Owen, 439; E. Thornton, 606; Ronald Walker, 440. The friends of Mr. Owen, who had been very gloomy all the latter part of the day, now became frantic; and Mr. Owen suddenly fancying that he had discovered a discrepancy between the state of the poll as then declared and on the former declaration, asserting that he (Owen) was declared two ahead on the former occasion, the convenient swearers again tendered their services to prove the correctness of Mr. Owen's assertion; but unfortunately for Mr. Owen's cause and their reputation, Mr. Owen discovered that he had made the blunder, and the Sheriff was right. After some storming and threats of prosecution, and charges of partiality against the Sheriff, who all through the proceedings had been declared by some of their strongest partisans to be acting very impartially, Thomas Owen demanded a general scrutiny, and some time after came into Court, and said he did not intend to prosecute the scrutiny; but the Sheriff, doubtless considering it unsafe to leave any part of his duty unperformed, sent his officer to the place appointed for commencing the scrutiny. Both candidates, Messrs. Walker and Owen, and F. P. Norton, J. P., and Thos. Owen, senr., J. P., and others, met the officer there. The regular manner of proceeding would have been for the Presiding Officer, after being himself sworn as prescribed by law, to swear a Clerk, who should minute the proceedings, whatever they were, to be dealt with according to law; but the two Justices of the Peace present, however reconcilable to their oaths of office, with no other apparent object than to embarrass the Sheriff, refused to administer the required oath to the Sheriff's officer, who made return of the facts on his warrant; and so terminated the election for the third district, Edward Thornton and Ronald Walker having been declared duly elected.

Yours truly,

A CLOSE OBSERVER.

Georgetown, March 30, 1859.

P. S. The scrutiny between McAulay and McDonald commenced yesterday. The Hon. gentleman appears to do all he can to annoy the Court.

Some of the very Christian people of Georgetown have declined attending the English Church, because they could not induce their worthy pastor, the Rev. Mr. Roach, to come to the hustings, and enrol himself in political squabbles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR.—In the *Islander* of the 25th inst. I perceive a feeble attempt at a refutation of the charge which I brought against a certain family in this place, written, no doubt, by some member of that family. So general is the belief in their guilt, and so strong the feeling of indignation against them in consequence, that I do not believe any other person would be found capable of writing in their defence. The writer might just as well engage in the hopeless task of opposing the flow of the tide with a pitchfork as to endeavour to convince the public against all evidence that the charge is unfounded, or to divert public suspicion from the right quarter. He knows full well that my pig pen was neither within the tannery nor immediately adjoining it, and that, as I am not in the habit of feeding my pigs on the offal of the tannery, it was simply impossible that this should be the cause of their death. The idea of their having died of starvation on my premises, were there abundance of refuse of food (if from the wheat mill only) to feed a dozen pigs, is still more ridiculous; besides a child could tell the difference of the effects of poison and those of starvation on an animal. It was very strange, too, that they should all die of starvation at the same time. Could any clearer proof be given that it was poison, and a most deadly poison, that was used, than the simple fact, that a pet sheep which had access to the trough swelled up and died? This proves also that it was meal or some vegetable matter that was mixed with the poison, for however likely pigs might be to eat the offal of a tannery, every person

will admit that a sheep was not a likely animal to eat this or any other filthy animal product. Will this most exemplary neighbour inform us what his son was doing in my pig-pen the night previous to that on which the pigs were poisoned—when, on being discovered, he offered a most ridiculous and childish excuse for going in there, which is of a nature that does not admit of publication? Does he not know well that that son and I were on such terms as rendered it most improbable that he should venture on any part of my premises but with some malicious design?

About the same time that the pigs were poisoned, I found some large and costly window sashes in a new cottage that I am building in a very secluded spot near the village, all hewn and hacked to pieces. Although my political opinions have procured me enemies in this neighbourhood, yet I will do them the justice to express my belief that, with the exception of the family alluded to, there is not one of them whom I would believe capable of such foul deeds as these.

I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that it is with great reluctance I bring such matters as these before the public. On my first discovery of the injury I have sustained, I am not ashamed to admit that my feelings were those of fear rather than resentment; for I did not know but that I myself, or one of my family, might be the next victim. I resolved to bear all silently and patiently, and enjoined my family to keep the matter a profound secret, for fear that complaints might provoke darker resentment and deeper injuries. Finding shortly afterwards, however, that the facts had leaked out through some of the servants, I was advised to publish a true account of the whole affair, to prevent misrepresentation.

If the writer in the *Islander* imagines that a paper that will expose such atrocities is to be considered on that account a medium of slander, I am sure that very few right-thinking men will agree with him.

N. J. BROWN.

St. Eleanor's, 29th March, 1859.

A DREAM.

"I would recall a vision which I dream'd,
 Perchance in sleep."—BYRON.

MR. EDITOR—As correspondents of other papers have taken a fancy to relating their experiences in the physical world, and some momentous occurrences since the recent change in the political affairs of this Island, a friend requests me to inform you of what he saw on a recent visit to the Land of Nod. He dreamt, he says, that one of his Sows littered, and had the respectable family of eighteen young pigs in his sty; but on examining the beast, he found that she had only fourteen teats. He says there is no possibility of keeping four of them alive, except on garbage and offal of the most dainty description. He asked my opinion as to the important event. I told him that I thought it was one of the shadows of the coming political events, vouchsafed to him as a strong political partisan—that there were more young pigs about the new Government sty now being built than the poor Public could possibly supply with suck, and that some of them would have to be kept from starvation by garbage to be picked up on the sly about the Colonial Building. I leave you to say whether this is not a fair interpretation of this remarkable dream, and if it is not, call me Royalty, April 4, 1859.

GRUNTER.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., APRIL 4, 1859.

PUBLIC FINANCES.

IN our paper of last week we observed, speaking of the result of the general election, that "never did a party take the helm of affairs under less favourable auspices than those which have now fallen to the lot of the Tories." The meaning of these words appears to have been quite misunderstood, and supposed to have reference to the financial condition of the country. Their application was, however, entirely different. In the same paper, and in the same column, we referred to the numerous pledges made by the Tory party while in opposition as to the changes and reforms which they would effect, if they were entrusted with the Government of the Island. We believe, and have expressed this belief more than once, that they have no intention to redeem more than one or two of their many pledges, and that there are several of them which they have not the power to carry out. In short, they have promised some things which, if carried into law, would ruin them politically for ever, and to which they will give a very wide berth in their administrative career; while there are other questions they could not carry, if they used their utmost exertions. It is to the difficult and embarrassing position in which they will be placed towards the public on those matters, that we referred in the observation above quoted. It will soon be seen that they have deceived the public and perhaps deceived themselves; and these circumstances will constitute a rather serious difficulty in the carrying on of the Government.

As to the state of the public finances, they could not be in a more prosperous condition. The total debt of the Colony on the 31st January last—the end of the financial year—was only £29,788, including Treasury Notes to the amount of £11,500, and against this amount there are assets sufficient to bring the debt down to the small sum of two or three hundred pounds, as will be seen by the following authentic statement:—

Debt on 31st January, 1859, excepting a small balance alleged to be due on purchase of Worrell Estate, but in dispute,	£39,788 0 0
By Treasury Notes not bearing interest,	£11,500 0 0
"balances of sales of Land on Worrell Estate, secured by bonds, and perfectly safe,	16,000 0 0
Leaving the actual debt against the Colony only	12,288 0 0
And to meet this balance there are over 40,000 acres of the Public Lands unsold, which, at the low figure of 5s. an acre, will realize,	10,000 0 0
Besides, there are more than two thousand pounds secured on Impost bonds since the end of the financial year, and some that were secured before that time, but not returned to the Government; as well as merchandise in warehouse that must pay duty, say,	2,000 0 0
From which it will be seen that there are assets enough to meet the public debt within the trifling sum of	£288 0 0

This is very different from the enormous balance of £70,000, alleged by the Tory party to be the amount of the public debt. They will not give the Colony credit for any assets in the shape of Treasury Notes, bonds on sold lands, and unsold lands; and if they continue to act in this spirit, they must not, in their future calculations, take credit for those assets. But, in the meantime, we challenge investigation into the correctness of our figures.

The public have been frequently informed by the *Islander*, within a few months past, that the Government had not a dollar in the Treasury at any one time. Its party will be gratified to learn that at the last public audit, on the 31st March—only four days ago—there were nearly five thousand pounds to the Treasury. When the Tories get into office, a few days

hence, they will have a very respectable amount of public plunder at their disposal with which to commence their career.

Another charge frequently urged against the Government was based on the depreciation of the Treasury Warrants. It was in vain to show that depression in every branch of trade, and general scarcity of money, was the cause of this depreciation. We have now, however, the satisfaction to inform our readers that Treasury Warrants are no longer at a discount, and have not been so for some time past. The Bank has not one Warrant in its vaults, as we understand from a gentleman who made application for them there within a few days ago; and we believe they have not only been readily cashed at the face, but eagerly sought, in some instances before they were issued, and money paid down for them without a farthing's discount, by parties desirous to make use of them as an investment for their spare capital. Thus do the Liberals leave the finances of the country in a healthy state. We hope their successors will be able to keep them so.

APRIL FOOLS.

THE *Monitor* of Wednesday last set the Tories of Charlottetown on the *qui vive*, by announcing very authoritatively, that the "Ministry" would resign on the following Friday. The memorable day arrived, and it happened to be the first of April: there was a meeting of the Executive Council that day, and it was quite amusing to see what a swarm of Tories there was about the Colonial Building, breathless with anxiety to catch the first announcement of the great event which will give long-coveted honours and emoluments to many of them. The friends of the Government, who were in the secrets of the Cabinet, and who did not want to dispel so interesting a delusion from the minds of their opponents on April fool's day, quietly fanned the excitement, until the Tories danced and capered about the streets, mad with joy and excitement. Lists of the "new Ministry" were handed about from one to another. One of the leaders of the party had been seen in the vicinity of Government House during Friday and the previous day. Of course everybody on the Tory side expected that he was busy in arranging the details for the formation of a new Government. The great bone of contention was the Secretaryship. It was not exactly decided who should get that office. There were three very clamorous aspirants—neither of whom possesses the least influence in the country—but each contended that he had the best claim to the situation. As for the Treasury, one old gentleman had actually bespoken his securities for the office, although he has as much chance of getting it as he has of being Prime Minister of England; and the Attorney Generalship was set apart for a man who could not poll fifty votes in any district of Prince Edward Island, not even excepting the little close borough of Georgetown—with the understanding that half the plunder was to go to a legal member of the House, who could not, without violating his pledge, openly take the office. Little differences of opinion as to the claims of this man or that, seemed, however, to be sunk after a while in the exuberant feeling of glorification which characterised the conduct of the Tories at the prospect of their speedy accession to power; and neither few nor far between were the libations poured to the success of the new administration. The meeting of Council terminated about 4 o'clock; and as the members were seen leaving the Building, the question was asked repeatedly: "Have they resigned? Have they resigned?" "No," was the chilling response, and more than one member of the Council laughed at the victims, and quietly reminded them that it was April fool's day. If some of them had become intoxicated with joy in the earlier part of the day, their vexation at the hoax did not produce a sober or tranquillising effect during the evening.

CLERICAL POLITICIANS.

THE *Islander* of Friday last tries very hard to palliate the conduct of certain clergymen for their very conspicuous and improper interference at the late Election. After some wise saws, without the modern instances, as to the impropriety of clerical people engaging in political strife, the apologist for the political persons assures us that very few clergymen, Catholic or Protestant, embroil themselves in election contests. Scarcely any of the former do, we know; and if this had not been the case with them, the result of the late general election would have been far different from what it is. We know only of one instance of a Catholic Priest taking part in an election, and then no further than giving his vote, which he did for a Protestant candidate; but there is no attempt to deny that the Protestant ministers referred to in a late No. of this paper took a very unseemly part in the election for the fourth district of King's County. Five of them were incessantly canvassing that district for many days previous to the election; and at a public meeting in one section of it, where a Liberal was scarcely allowed to open his mouth, the genius of turmoil was a clergyman of the puritanical stock, who was not satisfied with taking a part in the proceedings like any other rational being, but stripped off his coat as if he were going into a boxing ring—declaring "that certain Protestant ministers had been charged with taking an active part in politics secretly, but that they were now determined to come out in their true colours," &c. As another instance of the intolerant conduct of Protestant ministers in political matters, we may mention the fact, which has been stated to us a dozen of times, that a very worthy and intelligent man, a Magistrate, residing in the Baltic, Lot 55, was called to account after the general election in June last, by the ministers of his own church, because he voted for Mr. Hensley, and severely reprimanded for doing so.

Another instance of undue clerical interference of a later date has just been communicated to us. On the night previous to the late general election, a certain clergyman, who resides somewhere about Belfast, and who glorifies himself on being a graduate of an unknown Scottish University, met the person appointed as Returning Officer for one of the polling divisions in the fourth district of Queen's County, and endeavoured to persuade him to disregard the Sheriff's precept and not to go to the hustings. The person thus tampered with had enough sense of honour and common sense to reject the clerical injunction, alleging that his compliance with it might involve the High Sheriff in difficulty. But it would have done a great deal more, which did not enter into the philosophy of the imprudent graduate: it would have vitiated the election of Messrs. Gray and Douse, and those gentlemen would have had the trouble and expense of undergoing another contest.

The *Islander* states that Mr. Owen's defeat is owing to the zeal displayed by the Rev. Francis McDonald, of Georgetown, on behalf of Mr. Ronald Walker; and that he—Rev. Mr. McDonald—"canvassed from door to door against Mr. Owen."