

formerly; and that a greater number do consequently secrete themselves than when they were not exposed to the vigilance of an anti-liquor law administration.

Of the character of the crimes other than drunkenness, the progressive increase of which I have shown, I have said nothing. They consist, for the most part, of such as result from drink—assault and battery, and others of a kindred nature,—showing that there are not only more public drunkards and more offences and crimes in this city and county than before the "Maine Law" was enacted, but that those offences and crimes generally result from drink.

The cases of drunkenness which I have quoted from the judicial records are nearly all from this city. The same remark is true to a great—but not an equal—extent of the other offences and crimes which the figures are given above.

The question remains—where is the drink obtained that produces all this intoxication, and so much swells the list of offences and crimes? At this port very little liquor is imported. That which is consumed here comes generally by a circuitous route from Boston, where also a similar law is in operation. None of those laws, which, in the different States, prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks, affect importation. This arises not from the unwillingness of those States whose prohibitory laws exist to proceed to this extremity, but from the fact that the commerce of the country is under the exclusive control of the Federal Congress, and cannot be interfered with by any individual State.

There is, therefore, no legal obstacle to the importation of liquor at this port; and if it is generally brought from Boston it is that the law may be more surely evaded. In the late collision between the Ocean and the Canada, the vessel bound for Portland was found to have on board several demijohns of brandy. When liquor is found in this State, it cannot be confiscated before proof is offered that it was kept for sale; otherwise every man's private dwelling would be liable to be searched. It sometimes occurs that places which do not profess to be taverns or hotels are searched. That liquor is sold at such places is abundantly notorious; and so great has been the increase of private houses in which it is sold, since the "Maine Law" came into operation, that I have heard one of the best authorities in the city estimate the number of places of every description where intoxicating drinks are sold at from forty, the number in existence at the time the law was passed, to four hundred, at the present time.

All the places not professing to be taverns at which liquor is sold, are mere drinking shops of the worst and most dangerous description. They are free from all those wholesome restraints which, for the good of society, it has been found necessary to impose upon licensed taverns and hotels. The sole qualification required in the keeper of one of these dens is secrecy. He is not required to provide himself with anything that is useful—rooms, beds, victuals, anything in short which renders a licensed tavern or hotel useful to the public. On the other hand, there is, probably, not a single hotel in the State, that any traveller would think of staying at, where every kind of liquor is not regularly sold,—where it is not openly brought to the public dinner-table,—carried to private rooms where little parties collect, and drink in the room where it is kept in a sort of cupboard, the doors of which are kept locked except when liquor is required to be taken out. I found no difficulty in getting at the public dinner-tables of the hotels, anything in the way of drink I asked for. Indeed, there is no pretence whatever of withholding from travellers any beverage that they may call for. I am informed that many of the most ardent advocates of the prohibition do not aim at such a degree of success. After driving through the city with a gentleman resident here, to whom I explained the object of my visit, I asked him to go with me into some of the hotels and see the actual working of the machinery. I was stopping at another hotel; and so we went in as mere casual passers-by—apparently, in fact, having no object but to take a glass of brandy. We went to the office,—the bars have all become offices now,—and, on making known our wants, were shown into a room not far off, on the same floor. The waiter who accompanied us took a bunch of keys in his hand and walked up to a sort of cupboard, and, having unlocked the door, handed out a decanter of questionable brandy—saying, as the liquors were exposed to view,—without any remark from us other than the order for the liquor—"The Maine Law illustrated!" The decanter had apparently had recent heavy drafts upon it, for the brandy had got very low. The waiter, therefore, produced a large demijohn, out of which he replenished the nearly exhausted decanter. I do not profess to be a judge, but I should call it indifferent liquor. Indeed, from all the evidence I can collect, nothing else but indifferent liquor is now imported into this State. Importers, in view of the risk of seizure, will not import a costly article; and the result is that the public, which will not desist from the use of stimulants, in spite of the law, is served with a vile, deleterious, poisonous compound, which passes for pure liquor. The effect of swallowing such abominable fluids must be greatly injurious. Instead of prohibiting the use of liquor, the real effect of the law is to cause a very bad article to be consumed.

From all the evidence I can collect, I believe that the sellers of liquor not only derive great benefit from the prohibitory law, but that they are so fully convinced of the fact that they would not procure its repeal if they could. They charge about twice as much for liquor as they did before the law was enacted, and that for a vastly inferior article; thus making their profits three or four times as great, as before the law was passed, on the quantity sold. And that the quantity sold is much less, the statistics I have quoted give no indication. But the advantages of the law to retail liquor-dealers do not stop here. They are free from the license tax; from the obligation to provide stated accommodations for their patrons; in short, they enjoy a lawless freedom from everything but the fear of detection. And, in point of fact, they care very little for that; for society having conspired to defeat the law, the liquor-dealers are held harmless of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, which are ultimately borne by their customers; being raised by a sort of voluntary assessment. When a fine for illegal selling is announced, the regular customers of the house mulcted contribute each his proportion to make up the amount.

The conspiracy into which society has entered to defeat the law does not end here. It is the most difficult thing in the world to get evidence to convict a party of illegal selling. The seller and the buyer are in league to defeat the law. The buyer equally with the seller deems himself an interested party. Whether it be the honor that is said to exist among thieves or something else, the purchaser would deem himself disgraced if he disclosed the violation of the law to which he was a party and of which he was the cause. The law holds out a premium to the drunkard to become informer, by giving the judicial functionary who is to try the case a discretionary power to remit part of the penalty to which he is subject in case he turns evidence against the seller. Cases are very rare in which the buyer becomes informer or witness; and this danger is especially small with respectable hotels. Convictions therefore are most difficult to be obtained. The great majority of complaints for infraction of the law come to nothing. But when conviction is obtained, in the lower tribunals, it is seldom acquiesced in, when it is possible to raise some legal point on which to appeal to the Circuit Court. Nearly the whole legal fraternity has joined the conspiracy to defeat the law; and there are few cases in which it is not possible to pick some flaw. When a case is appealed, the chances are that the conviction will be upset.

In Augusta, under the eyes of the very Legislature that passed the prohibitory law, liquor is just as much sold as in this city. Two or three persons will go into a hotel, take a room, and call for any liquor they want, which at once comes to order. The necessity of taking rooms by parties who do not intend to remain all night, is another new source of profit which the prohibitory law secures to hotel keepers. In Bangor liquor is more openly sold than in either Augusta or Portland; and in the surrounding country the effect of attempting to prohibit its sale and use is said to have produced the most disastrous results. As liquor is dearer, if not more difficult to obtain, in small quantities, several parties club together and purchase a large quantity for their joint use. It is stored in some particular place, where the owners go to drink it. It is not kept for sale; and neither its purchase nor use is a violation of the law. A native of Bangor informed me that that practice, an off-spring of the prohibitory law, has made many sober young men miserable sots.

In this State no one is reduced to the necessity of feigning sickness and getting a medical certificate to that effect in order to obtain liquor. It is only too easily accessible every where. If it is not publicly exhibited, it is publicly sold at the dinner table; in the private room, and the room where it is kept.

As may readily be supposed, the parties charged with the office of public informer do not always show an excess of vigilance or carry the system of espionage to a revolting excess. If I am correctly informed, a good deal of collusion exists between the illegal sellers and those whose duty it is to watch them.

I have it on the authority of a gentleman extensively engaged in the administration of the law, and who thoroughly understands its working, that it leads to the most frightful perjury; and he does not think that this immorality can be avoided so long as the law holds out the temptations it does to the commission of this crime.

Correspondence.

THE PURCHASE OF THE WORREL ESTATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—

I beg to call your attention to the following extract:—

"In truth nothing can be more censurable than the conduct of the Snatcher Government regarding the purchase. The Assembly of 1859 was suffered to drift away until the last session of 1855 before they passed a Bill for securing it, and when passed, its publication was kept back until after the general election. In the meantime Mr. Pope, senior, \* \* \* \* \* went to England, and in connection with Messrs. W. Pope, T. Desbrisay, and a non-resident gentleman, purchased the Estate as soon as the Bill received the Royal assent, at so low a figure that it is said they will clear £10,000 or 12,000 by the transaction, without having advanced a single shilling in payment. \* \* \* \* \* If Messrs. Pope and Desbrisay could purchase it for from £10,000 or £12,000 less than the Government now pay for it, so might the Government; and that sum is therefore the loss which the public sustains from the negligence, the inability, or the scheming of the Coles' faction."—Islander, January 19.

Such is the manner in which the organ of the Obstructive "faction" continues to mystify and misrepresent the proceedings of the Government. Its misrepresentations would not be deserving of any notice but for the short and pithy letter of Mr. W. H. Pope, published in the Islander of Friday last, wherein he gives a plain denial to that part of the statement which makes reference to his father and the time of the purchase. The letter is worthy of being reproduced, as it furnishes a good commentary on McLean's veracity:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ISLANDER.

SIR,

In your article on "The Worrel Estate," contained in yesterday's paper, you remark "that Mr. Pope shook himself clear of the Snatcher faction, went to England, and in connection with Mr. W. Pope, T. Desbrisay, and a non-resident gentleman, purchased the Estate as soon as the Land Purchase Bill received the Royal assent."

The above statement is partially erroneous—the estate in question was purchased by me in February last, on behalf of Mr. Desbrisay and myself—my father was not consulted previously to the purchase, and was entirely ignorant of my views or intentions respecting it until the purchase was completed; he then became a shareholder. As Mr. Pope supported the Land Purchase Bill in its passage through the Legislature, I think it proper that the above error should be corrected.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Wm. H. POPE.

Charlottetown, January 20, 1855.

Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus, is a little scrap of hack-nied latin which Maclean recently purloined and threw in the face of Mr. Lord. It would make a better motto, and a truer one for the Islander than its present absurd declaration about being open to all parties, and the application of the new motto is well illustrated by the quotations above given. The facts relating to the Land Bill may be stated in a few words.

The publication of the land purchase bill was not kept back to serve any electioneering purpose. It was sent to England as soon as printed, and was printed as soon as it came in order. If there was any considerable delay in its receiving the Royal assent, that delay was owing to the opposition offered to the Bill by the Tory party, who petitioned Her Majesty to disallow it. Nevertheless, that Bill received the Imperial sanction at least twelve months before Messrs. Pope & Co. effected a purchase of the Worrel Estate, and nearly twelve months before such purchase the Liberal Government caused advertisements to be issued, declaring their readiness to purchase, under the provisions of the Bill, any property that might be offered. Mr. Holt's Government came into office in February last. The Bill formed part of the law of the land at that time. Mr. Holt was, himself, one of the Trustees of the Worrel estate. He knew that Mr. Worrel was desirous of selling it. How came it that neither he nor any of his friends in the Government ever made the least movement in the matter? Nay, more, shortly before the advent of the Holt administration, Mr. Haviland offered to sell to the Government a portion of his property. That offer was before Mr. Holt and his colleagues when they took the reins of office. Why was it suffered to remain a dead letter? Because, I presume, it would not have been convenient to make any purchase whatever while Messrs. W. H. Pope and Desbrisay were secretly in treaty about the purchase of the Worrel estate. There is no doubt—there can be no doubt, that Mr. Holt, as leader of the Government and the managing Trustee of the Estate in question, acted with culpable negligence in allowing an apparent advantage to be taken of Mr. Worrel, whose mind had been prejudiced, no doubt, against the land purchase act, and in losing a fine opportunity for the country over whose destinies he had been permitted to exercise a brief but pernicious control.

The Islander and its emissaries have taken great pains to decoy and misrepresent the principles of the Land Purchase Act; and one of the most mischievous delusions will be found in the quotation at the beginning of this letter, viz. that the public will lose £10,000 or £12,000 by the Government not having been able to effect as good a bargain as Messrs. Pope & Co. The public will not lose a farthing—the Bill is, or is to be, a self-sustaining measure. If Holt's Government had not been so culpably negligent in the matter, the Estate would probably have been purchased from Mr. Worrel at a lower figure than that at which the present Government has purchased from Mr. Pope; and then the tenants on the estate, and not the public generally, would have been the gainers by the transaction. But no one can

positively assert that it could have been obtained at precisely the same price. As it is, however, the tenants will not have to pay more than 12s. 6d. per acre for the best farms—which is very considerably less than they could have purchased from the proprietor or the trustees; and I have no doubt that before the elapse of two or three years every settler on that fine property will be a freholder, much to the annoyance of the Islander and its "faction."

It cannot, however, be too distinctly or too often stated, that whatever gains or losses may result from the purchase of the Worrel property, those gains or losses will affect the people who reside upon that property, and no others. The general revenue of the country will not lose a sixpence by the transaction, nor does any member of the Government wish that the general revenue should be increased to the extent of one sixpence by it. No intelligent man will encourage the mischievous delusion, so industriously sought to be propagated, that any portion of his taxes, however small, can be expended in this affair. Whoever has read the law knows that such a contingency is strictly forbidden and guarded against.

I am quite of your opinion that the animadversions and misrepresentations of the Islander—owing to the reckless conduct of its disappointed and vindictive editor—are entitled to little or no consideration; but the statements I have made are given upon the best authority, and apart from any regard for the fancied influence of the Opposition press, they may not be unproductive of some good effect. The editor of the Islander writes for bread—he is paid to malign the present Government and its measures. It may be charity to treat the obscure animal with contempt—but its keepers and feeders should, by a rigorous exercise of the influence and patronage of Government, be made to pay for the luxury of keeping such a snarling cur.

January 20, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—

The papers have announced that the late Charity Bazaar realized £120. I perceive that £20 of this sum have been handed over to the Irish Society for the relief of the poor who may have claims upon that body; and I have been informed that £20 have been applied towards the relief of the poor connected with the Protestant denominations. I wish to ask to what purpose are the remaining £80 to be applied? It is currently reported that this balance is reserved to be expended towards building a Poor House, into which the Protestant poor only will be entitled to admission. I hope this report is not correct, and if so, I think some steps ought to be taken to remove the bad impression it is likely to produce not only upon the minds of Catholics, but upon those of liberal Protestants as well. There should be no selfishness or bigotry in this matter. Genuine charity gives preference to neither creed or country. The late Bazaar was creditable to the philanthropic feelings of all religious denominations. Catholics on that occasion, as well as on all previous ones, generously co-operated with their protestant neighbours. Surely, therefore, it cannot be seriously contemplated to proscrib the unfortunate objects of charity connected with that denomination, by denying to them any advantages yet to be derived from the expenditure of funds realized by the late Bazaar? The rumour I allude to, I have heard twenty times within the last week. I will be glad to be credibly informed that it has no foundation.

Yours, &c.

January, 1855. CHARITY.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., FEBRUARY 5, 1855.

STATE OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE EAST.

We alluded last week to the strictures recently published by the London Times, respecting the alleged disorganized condition of the British army at the seat of war, and we promised to transfer that article to our columns. We now proceed to redeem that promise. The description herein given of the great and glorious army, panting for martial enterprise, which landed at Eupatoria in September last, and which, on three memorable occasions since, achieved the most splendid victories to be found in the annals of ancient or modern warfare—is indeed by no means calculated to excite pleasurable emotions in the minds of those who may be desirous that the object of the Crimean expedition should be crowned with success. The disorganized state of the army is described with much particularity. "Can the description be true," is the question which many a one will ask when he has read the article annexed. For our own part we should—with our present not very reliable sources of information—decline answering the question either negatively or affirmatively. It is true the Times is not steadfast in its political predilections—it is true that it seemed before the commencement of hostilities to advocate the cause of the Czar, and subsequently to denounce his pretensions with the utmost severity—that it has, for the most part, in its references to Lord Aberdeen's Government, given evidence of a friendly disposition, while on other occasions it has not disguised a forward and peevish, if not positively sulky temper in reviewing the acts of his Lordship's Administration. Nevertheless, the Times is an authority which, in discussing imperial questions, cannot be well despised. It may err like other journals, but no other journal pretends to possess any thing like the influence which it has exercised, not only in Europe but America, for more than half a century. Its unrivalled success as a commercial speculation is at once a testimony to the extraordinary ability with which it is conducted, and a proof that much confidence is reposed in its statements and opinions. There is no statesman in Europe who has left so deep an impression upon the age as the active, vigilant and ubiquitous censor and commentator of Printing House Square. His influence is recognized and felt in Paris, Vienna, and even in St. Petersburg, nearly as much as it is in London. He pries into the secrets of every cabinet in Europe—attends every military or other expedition, noting its movements with the closest scrutiny, nor disdains to turn his attention from such august proceedings to chronicle the pageantries, the amusements and the follies of the time. There is not a crowned head in Europe unmindful of the influence of the Times. Its meddling disposition may, and does not unfrequently evoke the fiercest indignation, but the feeling it awakens is rather fear than contempt, while its good opinion is estimated beyond all price.

"Can the description of the state of the army in the Crimea be true?" may be met by another question: "Would the Times wilfully mislead the civilized world regarding the

efficiency or inefficiency of the brave troops who are fighting to maintain the great principles of liberty—who are struggling, and let us hope, successfully, to repel the power of a barbaric invader who has long schemed to overwhelm the freedom and civilization of western Europe? Or, would it compromise its influence and ignore its claim to respectability, by falsely representing the arms of the Empire as incompetent to cope with the power of Russia—thereby checking the hopes with which all classes look forward to a successful termination of the war? If the statements of the Times be true, a fearful responsibility devolves upon those Ministers and Commanders who have the management of the war on the part of England. If false, no language could be too strong to reprobate the conduct of a journal that would thus triffl with the hopes and expectations of a great people. If false, the criminality of the conduct of the Times should be estimated in proportion to its influence and popularity. A journal of inferior note—exercising no influence beyond the boundaries of a County or a Province—might publish such statements as those contained in the Times, if untrue, with comparative impunity; but when they emanate from a press which stands at the head of the newspaper literature of the world, the offence assumes an enormous and diabolical character.

Heaven knows we cherish no love for the Times. Its fiercest anathemas, in times past, have been directed against our creed and country, while liberal opinions in politics have never found great favour in its eyes. We cannot, therefore, but ardently hope that it has misrepresented the condition of the British army in the Crimea. But how can we say that it is misinformed, or that it wilfully substitutes truth for falsehood? It has better facilities for obtaining reliable information than any other paper in Europe; and by the eloquent, graphic and picturesque accounts of the battles of Bala Clava and Inkermann, which its agents and correspondents have furnished, it has manifested a deep interest in the success of the allied arms. It was not to be expected that Lord Raglan and Gen'l. Canrobert would make known to their respective Governments the actual condition of the British army, if bad,—and as regards the correspondence of subordinate officers and private soldiers in the Crimea, it is chiefly occupied in recounting exploits of personal valour—describing scenes of individual suffering, and expatiating upon the adventures and mishaps incident to war. All we know from official sources about the expedition to the Crimea, is—that three great and glorious battles have been fought, in which the arms of England and France have been covered with more than ancient glory—that the strength of the allied force has been terribly diminished by those victories, and by disease—that reinforcements are absolutely necessary to enable the allies to maintain their position before Sebastopol,—and that this obstinate fortress, after a protracted siege, in which the best blood of Britain and France has been profusely shed, still defies the allied arms, and attests the power of the enemy.

We have been informed that Lord Raglan, for some offence which has not come to our knowledge, refused not long since to permit the Times' correspondent to remain about the camp in the Crimea. This act, if it really occurred, may have aroused some ill-feeling in the mind of the editor against the commander-in-chief; but it is hardly possible that he would on that account be so base as wilfully to misrepresent the condition of the whole army, and in seeking to do an injury to Lord Raglan, compromise the honour of the nation, and strengthen the hands of the enemy at this critical time, when the siege of Sebastopol is drawing to a close. Many days, however, cannot now elapse before we shall be made acquainted with the final issue of the Crimean expedition. Even as we write the sufferings and exploits of the brave soldiers of the besieging armies may have attained the desired consummation; and if the sequel prove that Sebastopol has fallen into the hands of the Allies, as God knows we hope it has, the glory of its capture will be all the greater when viewed in connection with the sadly diminished strength of the captors.

(From the London Times.)

DISORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Two months ago we could not have seen the letter of an officer containing some trifling reflections on the inevitable mishap of an army on the march or in the field without being laid under the most solemn obligation not to publish it, or at least to disguise the source of our information. Now the whole army rushes into print. Parents, wives, brothers, the whole family circle, as if they no longer cared for promotion and had forgotten the Horse Guards, urge us to publish and tell the whole truth. It is life that is now uppermost in their thoughts—life, excepting only that a still sadder alternative than even death will occasionally obtrude itself. It is possible to purchase life by disgrace, but there is not a soldier's wife or parent in this country who would not rather hear of his death, even by famine, by cholera, or at his post in the trenches, than that the honour of England had been compromised, and this vast human sacrifice wholly thrown away. While such, however, are the thoughts that distract half the noble and gentle households of this country, no wonder that reserve and the fear of official anger are cast aside, and we are entreated to publish each miserable narrative scrawled in the camp before Sebastopol. Hundreds of letters tell, in uniform language, the almost total disorganization of our army in the Crimea, and its awful jeopardy, not from the Russians, but from an enemy nearer home—its own utter mismanagement. It can no longer be doubted, or even denied, that the expedition to the Crimea is in a state of entire disorganization. All attempts to deny it only end in admitting the fact, and all excuses only throw the blame from one department to another. There is not a single thing requisite to the efficiency of an army, excepting only the personal courage of officers and men, that is not gone almost beyond the reach of remedy. At the last date the army was on half-rations; some regiments were two days without food; the soldiers, and even most of the officers, were miserably ill clad and ill-shod; still without any sufficient protection from the rain over-head and the pool under foot; they live in perpetual water and damp; there was no drainage, and the whole camp was a sea of mud and filth, the hospital marquees being surrounded by the worst nuisances. There was still no road from the port at Bala Clava. Three or four thousand horses had perished from hunger, exposure, and over work, and the remaining few were reduced to mere skeletons; several regiments had been draughted off to do the work of beasts of burden, in carrying food and other supplies from the port to the camp; the winter clothing that had arrived at Bala Clava could not be distributed simply because there were not the means of con-