

Office for the second time, which was on Saturday the 24th inst., Mr. Owen treated me and the parties who sent me there with the same contempt and indifference as he did on a former occasion, by telling me I might come there if I wished on the following Monday, but to bear in mind that I would get no information from him respecting the duties of the Post Office; and that the parties who sent me might not think he was going to turn Schoolmaster in addition to his other duties—that he would endeavor to struggle with me until something would occur to relieve him from his present distressing embarrassments; and that he would retain the services of Mr. Desbrisay there as long as he himself would be permitted to hold the office, and concluded by saying—"go and tell the Government that."

I accordingly attended on Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, and saluted Mr. Owen on my entering the office. He, however, made no reply, and affected not to notice me, until I put my hand on a parcel which was being prepared for Mail, upon which he bawled out at me in a very surly tone not to touch or interfere with anything in the office, as something very serious might occur in consequence of my doing so. In fact, he told me to touch nothing whatever in the office, but that I might look at Mr. Swabey performing his business. I did so in compliance, rather than be idle. I stood for a considerable time with Mr. Swabey where he was receiving and delivering letters, until he had occasion to retire for a few minutes, when I reached my hand to receive a letter at the window; but Mr. Owen, perceiving me, ran immediately in great fury and snatched it from me.

In the afternoon of the same day (Monday), I had some further conversation with Mr. Owen, in which I told him not to dread me so much as he seemed to do, for I did not come there to steal or pilfer. He then said he wanted to hold no conversation whatever with me, and therefore for me not to speak to him on any account; and that he hoped soon to know from a despatch which he sent to the Home Department if the Government were going to annoy him and destroy the harmony of the Post Office, by sending Assistants there whom they choose to pick up off the streets.

He ceased speaking to me ever since, this being Wednesday evening. It must, therefore, be considered, Sir, that Mr. Owen has regarded me since presenting myself there rather as an interloper than anything else, and does not seem in any respect to recognize the authority of the local Government. I have, therefore, no encouragement or chance of improving myself while such feelings exist.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant,
JAMES E. KELLY.

Hon. George Coles, Col. Secy.
Mr. Owen, Postmaster General, in reply to further complaint of Mr. James E. Kelly.
GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Charlottetown, July 31st, 1858.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst., accompanying copy of another communication from Mr. James E. Kelly, addressed to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, dated the 25th, complaining of uncourteous treatment on my part towards him, to which complaint I am directed to reply.

In doing so I would beg to inform His Excellency that I have ever studied in every instance, as far as has been my duty, to pay minute and particular attention to every command and instruction given by His Excellency, as well as by all former Lieutenant Governors since I have been placed in charge of the Post Office Department in this Colony; but I have already informed His Excellency that I cannot perform the unceasing duties of the office I hold without the assistance of one person at least completely conversant with all its minute details; and Mr. James E. Kelly, from his former occupation, cannot be expected to have a knowledge of Post Office accounts, or be capable for a long time of performing the complicated duties which I have, with much confidence, hitherto entrusted to Mr. Desbrisay; and if His Excellency's Government suppose that, in addition to the arduous labour and attention required to be observed by me, I must place confidence in, and teach Mr. James E. Kelly to do the duties which only by a long practice can be correctly and satisfactorily performed, they require from me much more than it is in my power to accomplish.

When Mr. Kelly came to this office on Monday morning last, I directed him to observe the manner in which the work of the department was conducted; and shortly afterwards perceiving him moving some packets of letters which I had carefully placed for transmission, I sharply directed him not to displace a single article in the office. And with respect to his charge, that I took Mr. Swabey's stand on his being absent, I beg to state that I must have a longer acquaintance with Mr. Kelly than a few hours or a few days can give me, before I allow him either to deliver or receive letters where the rates are so various. But as His Excellency's Government has placed him in a situation that he is at present quite incompetent to fill, his best mode is to observe what is doing; and by a correct and pleasing conduct strive to give me confidence.

I have already informed His Excellency that I cannot perform the duties of the office without a competent assistant, but I am happy to state that Mr. Desbrisay has kindly promised to assist me a few hours every day, which will, in some measure, relieve me from my present embarrassment.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,
THOMAS OWEN.

Andrew Mitchell, Esq., Assistant Colonial Secy.
Letter to Mr. Owen, 3rd August, 1858, notifying him of the appointment of his successor.

Council Office, 3rd August, 1858.
Sir,—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, having had under consideration a letter from Mr. James E. Kelly, dated the 28th July last, further complaining of your conduct towards him, as also your letter in reply thereto, of the 31st ultimo, addressed to the Assistant Colonial Secretary, in which reply it appears that, notwithstanding the dismissal of Mr. Desbrisay, you still retain him in the General Post Office, and that you have made an arrangement with him to assist you daily in the duties thereof; and as there is no attempt on your part to deny the truth of any of the statements made by Mr. Kelly, I am instructed to acquaint you, that the Government—having had hitherto no intention to make any change with respect to yourself in the Post Office—regret that they have now no alternative, under all the circumstances, than to relieve you from the duties of your office by the appointment of your successor, to whom, at the earliest possible period, you are hereby required to deliver all Books, Papers, Letters, Documents, and other property in your hands as Postmaster General.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
CHARLES DESBRISAY, C. C.
Thomas Owen, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

Correspondence.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Boston, August 2, 1858.

MR. EDITOR,—Thinking that a few lines from the "City of Notions" would not be totally unacceptable to you and your readers, I have concluded to send a few, and leave them to your judgment, either to lay them before your readers, or consign them to the flames, where, I believe, you deposit more than ever reaches the public eye.

July has been very cold with us; so cold, that during some parts of it, fires and wino or clothing were quite a luxury. Such weather as that which we have had during the past month is a great disappointment to the hotel-keepers at those fashionable places of resort during the summer months, because people will not leave their own homes as long as the weather is moderate, and they are right there; for seventeen dollars a week for board for a single person, is no inconsiderable sum, especially when it is allowed to run on for two or three months; and, besides, they do not find such bracing weather as you have in your Island home; they may find some more dyspepsia-producing food, if

that is worth finding—but that is all. Let them travel from one end of the United States to the other, but they can never find such a beautiful climate, nor one of those beautiful breezes, such as you have during the summer; and, above all, you would give them better satisfaction, as regards obtaining health, and not charge them seventeen dollars a week. I think that if the hotel-keepers of Charlottetown would advertise in the Boston and New York papers, it would tend to turn more of the travelling public in that direction than now avail themselves of the privilege. I will name some of the principal papers, in order that they may know which is the best to patronize, if they see fit to do so:—In Boston—Journal, Traveller, Transcript and Post. In New York—Tribune, Herald and Journal of Commerce, &c.

The old "Log Cabin"—I mean the original one and not the imitation, which were paraded all over the country in 1840—in which President Harrison lived when he was nominated for the Presidency, and which probably was the means of ensuring his election, was totally consumed by fire a few days ago.

The expenses of Mr. Buchanan's administration of the general Government have increased to an alarming degree above that of his predecessor, and his was bad enough. The amount being, for the current year, £103,867 28; and how much more it will be before the year is out remains for the future to tell. If Mr. Buchanan goes on at this rate the result of his labours will be, that direct taxation will ensue.

We are waiting with breathless anxiety to hear the result of the attempt which is now being made to lay the Atlantic Cable. Some scientific gentlemen say that the only vessel in the world which is able to lay the cable is the *Leviathan*, because in her it could be reeled; but the vessels now engaged are obliged to have it coiled, and in paying out from coils it is almost sure to get kinked; and so sure as it kinks it will break. All we can do is to hope that it will be successful.

Reading a piece in one of the papers a few days ago about a postmaster who was removed from office, not because he voted, but merely because he sided with the Douglas Democrats, puts me in mind of the great fuss the Tory papers in Charlottetown are making over the removal of Peter Desbrisay. Here it does not require a Government officer to vote against the party which gave him his office, but if he merely expresses himself as opposed to some of its measures, the next few days will bring him a little billet, whose meaning, when summed up, is this, "Your services are no longer required." And under no condition is a man allowed to hold office who is opposed to the party having the gift of office. Why should the Tories complain, or even Mr. Desbrisay? If he was opposed to the principles of the present Government, he should not have voted against them, if he wished to hold his office. But no, Mr. Editor, he expected that the present Government would be defeated, and thought it would not make any difference whether he voted or not; but for once he has been disappointed, and he has received his just reward; and the Government deserves all praise for the promptness they have shown in dismissing him.

There is an old saying, that if you take a man in and treat him well, and give him everything he desires, he will, after he has got nearly all you have, turn upon you and kill you, in order to possess himself of all you have left. And such has been, in some respects, the case with Mr. Desbrisay. He has been living in the good graces of the present Government for a number of years; and now when he thought they were about to expire, he turns upon them and throws defiance in their face. I hope that all such customers will be treated in the same way, and their ingratitude held up to the gaze of a discerning public.

Lord Napier, the British minister at Washington, has been authorized to sell the entire property, in the United States Territory, belonging to the Hudson Bay Company to the Government, for \$600,000. This property consists of a number of posts and trading houses, sheep and cattle.

Mr. Shaffner, of this city, has published a letter in the Boston *Traveller*, advocating a line of telegraph to Europe by Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Isles. Below is the concluding paragraph of his letter, which I give entire, as anything relating to the ocean telegraph is of so much importance at the present moment:—

"It is my purpose to go over the whole route from Quebec to Europe, traversing Labrador, Davis' Straits, Greenland, the sea to Iceland, and over that Isle, and thence by the Faroe Isles to Norway and to North Scotland. I intend to get every foot of the land and water to be traversed, before I present the enterprise for public favor. There will be no speculation in my undertaking. You will never hear of any stock in this line until it has been well determined as a practicable route for the telegraph proposed. I will have the aid of good civil and telegraphic engineers, and after a careful survey of the countries proposed to be traversed, and of the seas to be crossed, if it shall be found feasible, then and not until then, will you hear of the affairs of any company under the Royal and Imperial concessions generously awarded to me, as being before the public for patronage."

The Governor General of Canada gets \$500 more per annum than the President of the United States, his salary being only \$25,000, while the Canadian Governor has \$31,000. I think the American people pay their President very unequally indeed; he should have \$100,000 at least.

Our fall campaign for the election of Governor, Lieut. Governor, &c., commences in a few weeks; but nothing at present indicates that it will be a lively one. Mr. Banks will probably be again returned.

The steamship *Persia's* last trip from New York to Liverpool was made in 9 days, 6 hours and 32 minutes. More anon.
Yours, &c., &c.,
BLUE-NOSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—In the last *Islander* I observe a long letter addressed to His Excellency Sir Dominick Daly, signed by one "Alexander McKay, graduate of a Scottish University, and ordained Minister from the Church of Scotland over the Presbyterian congregation of Belfast, P. E. I.," where in he has thought proper to falsify and misrepresent my language at the recent Elections; and charges me with endeavoring "to excite the worst passions of the people of a certain faith against him and others," meaning, I suppose, the Political Parsons who endeavoured to overthrow the present Government at the last Elections; or does he only mean himself and Mr. Lochhead? Now, Sir, I never advised the people "not to take summary vengeance" against those Political Parsons; but what I did say was, that it was most disgraceful to Protestants the part many of the Protestant Ministers had taken at the elections. And, Sir, at Covehead Road, after the contest there was over, I advised the Liberals to go home and forget and forgive the many insults that had been given them both in the public papers and at meetings, for I was satisfied the worst passions had been worked up against them by ministers of religion, who ought to be ashamed of their conduct. Now, is this seeking "to add fuel to the flame and accomplish the basest purposes?" No, Sir, but this Mr. McKay having failed—by his unchristian conduct towards Mr. Davies at the recent Election and his fire-brand speeches at Public Meetings, which he attended in company with the opposition candidate, and by mounting the hustings the first on the day of polling—to deter his congregation from voting for Mr. Davies, and in opposition to the Government,—he now, after trying with the assistance of the *Protector* to raise the "worst passions" of the Catholic community, calls upon His Excellency to show his disapproval of the course which I and others have felt ourselves bound to pass upon the conduct of those Political Parsons, and backs his appeal by a threat, that should His Excellency decline to take immediate steps to show his disapproval of such conduct, that they "must soon give vent to their sentiments in the most certain way of obtaining redress?"

Not so fast, Mr. McKay. You are not, and have not been, in that meek and Christian-like spirit for some time that a Christian Minister—professing to follow in the foot-steps of the Saviour—ought to be: "If thy brother offend thee, forgive him, not only seven times, but seventy times seven." But what redress do you mean to take? You have done your best to destroy the Government at the late elections, and that by the most disgraceful conduct a Christian Minister could be guilty of; and now you doubt the Government having a majority in the new House, for if your party had you and your political friends, Yeo & Co., could easily obtain the signatures of those who might be supposed to constitute the Tory majority to a requisition to His Excellency to call the House together. But Mr. McKay is well aware that the supporters of the opposition in the new House dare not attempt to take this step. They know they have not a majority; and the Belfast "Graduate of a Scottish University" only shows his own folly and impotent malice in using a still threat against the Lieut. Governor after failing—notwithstanding, and all the efforts made by himself and his brother Parsons—to damage His Excellency's

Government in the only constitutional way in which it could be successfully assailed. This Political Parson appears to have a confirmed habit of using threatening language towards others. I have heard that many of his own congregation have had abundant proofs of this unchristian disposition of his, previous to the election in Belfast. But the independent men whom he threatened, seemed to think as I do, that the prayers or the curses of the hypocrite—whether he be an assumed "Minister of the Gospel" or not—are alike unavailing in this world and the next.

Yours truly,
GEORGE COLES.
Charlottetown, August 21, 1858.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—I have observed in the last *Islander* a communication signed "W. H. Pope," addressed to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, in which the writer endeavours to make the public believe that His Excellency, in recommending for the Royal allowance the Bill to secure compensation to Tenants, "attempted to deceive the Colonial Minister, and unjustly to deprive the land proprietors of their estates." Sir, I do not wonder that the paid advocates of the Proprietors and connexion of the old Family Compact of this Island should feel disposed to abuse His Excellency and misrepresent his actions. The Governor's advocacy of the Compensation Bill was just and necessary; and the recent conduct of the proprietors and their agents has proved it to be so. The Tory clique have always laboured to keep the poor tenantry in bondage, and more particularly when an election is about to take place. At the last election this tyrannical disposition was manifest enough, when agents and proprietors threatened to enforce the payment of back rents to the last shilling, if the wretched tenants did not vote for the nominees of the proprietors; and those who were independent enough to discard the threat, in many instances, have been harassed by law proceedings; and some of them will be forced to leave their farms, and go to work in a destitute state upon the world, after many years of hard labour; whereas if His Excellency's recommendation with regard to the Compensation Bill had the desired effect, there would be some little relief for those victims of proprietary tyranny and oppression.

The Tory Faction, of whom "W. H. Pope" appears to be one of the champions, is annoyed because His Excellency governs this country in a constitutional manner, and according to the principles of Responsible Government. If Mr. Pope, and persons of his way of thinking, could use, as they formerly did, back stairs influence in opposition to the Governor's constitutional advisers, they would not be so rabid against Sir Dominick Daly as they are at present; but because they have succeeded to a small extent, by a resort to such influence, with the Colonial Minister in England, they are savage at being thwarted in similar attempts with the Governor of the Colony. The Legislature of this Island should, next session, address the Crown and the British Parliament, and respectfully remonstrate against the practice of allowing private and unauthorized representations from this Colony to prevail over the deliberate decisions of its Legislature and Government; for there can be no confidence in the Colonial Office until an address of this nature shall exercise its proper and legitimate influence.

Your obedient servant,
A TENANT FARMER.
1st, August 14, 1858.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—I feel a degree of pleasure to have it in my power, (after some investigation), thus publicly to exonerate our church member who was accused with aiming a blow of a stick at my head, as reported in the *Examiner* of the 9th inst., which charge, I now believe to be false, was positively preferred against him before many witnesses at my house by an ill-disposed person, who alone is responsible for that calumny. And, Sir, I would take this occasion to warn such persons of the crying sin and evil tendency of "bearing false witness against their neighbour," let their motives be what they may; and from what I know of the accused person's previous peaceable and obliging disposition, I have no hesitation, in charity, to take his word for his innocence of the above charge.

I would also, in order to prevent a wrong impression, state that the person who accused me with embezzling the public money, is not a member of Mr. Knox's Church or congregation.

Yours respectfully,
ROSCOEATH, August 16th, 1858.
C. STEWART.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—As Mr. Charles Stewart admits that he was misinformed respecting certain charges preferred in his letter, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Knox, and published in the *Examiner*, and has given me to understand that, had he not been so grossly deceived by his informant, he would not have published the above mentioned letter, which I consider to be, as far as I am concerned, a sufficient apology for the same,—I therefore would request you to suspend the publication of my letter.

Yours respectfully,
JAMES McLAREN.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., AUGUST 23, 1858.
POST OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE.

We reprint in our present No. from the *Royal Gazette* of Thursday last the correspondence which has taken place between the Government and the late head of the Post Office Department, respecting the removal of Mr. Peter Desbrisay and the appointment of his successor. Our readers will observe the marked difference of tone in the reply (dated July 17) which Mr. Owen made to Mr. J. E. Kelly's first complaint, as to the uncourteous reception which he met with at the hands of the Postmaster General, from that which characterises his second epistle of the 31st July. In the first he is all submission, and does not hesitate to say that Mr. Desbrisay had acted very indiscreetly in voting as he did. He labours to exonerate his own indiscreet conduct in treating rudely the nominee of the Government, by referring to his "excited feelings" at the loss of his friend's assistance—he knows that he was wrong in using indignant language, which he admits he ought not to have used under any circumstances—hopes he will be excused; and says that if Mr. Kelly will go back to the office as soon as he (Mr. Owen) shall have returned from Georgetown, where he was then going on a Crown subpoena, he will endeavour to discharge his duty as well as the painful circumstances under which he is placed will permit. There could be no objection to the style and matter of this letter. It must have been written on the spur of the moment, almost immediately on the receipt of Mr. Kelly's letter, for that was handed into the Secretary's Office only on the afternoon of the previous day, where a copy of it had to be taken for Mr. Owen's perusal, and we have no doubt that the Postmaster was wise enough not to take the advice of his friends before he wrote the letter in question. Had he continued under the disposition that prompted the very proper sentiments which it contains, he would be in the Post Office yet, enjoying, as he formerly did, the confidence and esteem of the Government. But he blindly sacrificed his position, to gratify, as perhaps he thought he should, the enmity of some of his partizan friends,—he foolishly threw away his own office in the reckless attempt to keep in the public employment, in spite of the Government, a clerk of the department who had forfeited their confidence by an admitted indiscretion. He led the Go-

vernment to believe, that, on his return from Georgetown, he would receive the new assistant in a courteous and becoming manner, and point out to him the duties of his station. But no. Mr. Owen had evidently meanwhile taken bad advice. As soon as Mr. Kelly returned to the office, as he states in his letter of the 28th July, answered by Mr. Owen on the 27th, he was received in no better spirit than that which characterised the Postmaster's bearing towards him on the former occasion. He was not instructed in any of his duties—he was not allowed to touch anything in the office; and he and the Government who sent him there were threatened with the displeasure of the Imperial authorities.

Mr. Owen's reply of the 31st to Mr. Kelly's letter of the 28th, does not refute any of the latter's statements as to uncourteous treatment; but is merely a round-about testimony to Mr. Desbrisay's efficiency as a Post Office clerk, whom he says he continued to employ for several hours a day, and furnishes a sort of running commentary on Mr. Kelly's extreme ignorance with respect to the discharge of Post Office duties.

There was only one course open to the Government as soon as Mr. Owen's communication of the 31st July was received: either to let Mr. Desbrisay remain in the office, and cancel the appointment of his successor—practically acknowledge that Mr. Owen's authority was superior to theirs; or convince Mr. Owen, by his own removal, that he could not administer the department in a high-handed manner. The latter course they have taken—it was forced upon them; and we are confident the people's representatives, notwithstanding all the splutter that has been heard from a few Tories in Charlottetown, will justify this act of the Executive.

The only grounds of defence set up for Mr. Desbrisay are: 1st—that he was able to perform his duty in the Post Office; and 2d—that he always voted as he did at the last election. With regard to the first plea, it is only necessary to observe, that about six years ago Mr. Desbrisay was as inexperienced and as ignorant of Post Office duties as Mr. James Kelly is. We think the latter, however, is quite as well educated as the former, and has brains enough to learn to discharge his duties as well. If Mr. Desbrisay had a right to live forever, with unwaning powers, this plea set up on his behalf would be entitled to some further consideration.

The second plea is still more indefensible. Because Mr. Desbrisay ungratefully opposed his employers on former occasions, we cannot see why he should be permitted to do so for all time to come. One step in the wrong direction will not justify another in the same. One great fault which the Government have committed heretofore was, giving too much latitude to subordinate officials. The Tories, if in power, would not tolerate, and never did tolerate while they were in power, opposition from subordinate officials. Why should the Liberals be expected to pursue a different course of proceeding? The Government did not ask Mr. Desbrisay to vote for them—they would be perfectly satisfied with his conduct if he had not voted at all; but when he cast his dice in the general game, and lost with those on his side, he ought to have manliness enough to put up with the consequences without repining.

THE INDIGNATION MEETING.

We believe it is really the intention of the Obstructives to persevere in their insane design of holding a public meeting on the Market Square, on Wednesday next, for the purpose of showing their teeth to the Government, because the latter exercised the constitutional power with which they are invested of removing a couple of subordinate officials who thought they could oppose the Government with impunity, and deny the right of any power in this Colony to interfere with them in their respective offices. In the matter of claiming and holding on to office, the Tories have always had uncommonly loose notions of propriety and independence of spirit. Of the latter, indeed, it may be fairly assumed that they are in blissful ignorance of its adaptation to the affairs of public life. One put a Tory in office—a minor one of course—and he straightway imagines that he is settled there as long as he can draw breath—and after two or three years experience, he is fool enough to believe that no one in the world can discharge the duties of the office so satisfactorily as himself. He may be an ass or a blockhead, and a cringing sycophant, before he enters on the duties of his new employment; but let him be there for a few years, and he sets up a claim, or his friends will do it for him, to the possession of unrivalled intelligence and talent; and if, while dressed in "a little brief authority," he should take a fancy to play some "fantastic tricks before high heaven," and to snarl and snarl at the power which gave him official life—it is held as a piece of monstrous presumption for any one to question his right to do so. Should he be eased of his dignity—or taken down a peg or two, as we say in common parlance, and unceremoniously dismissed—he is at once proclaimed as a martyr—the sympathies of all good Tories are evoked in his behalf, and indignation meetings are frowningly threatened, as if they would have the power to undo what the Executive had done.

We should like to know—although we have no expectation of getting information from them on the subject—what advantage the Obstructives hope to derive from their indignation meeting on Wednesday next? What good will it be to Mr. Owen or Mr. Desbrisay? It won't restore them to their official employments—it won't alter the decision of the Government with respect to their removal; and we are quite sure it won't frighten the Government nor the Island at large from its propriety. We observe that the Sheriff has obligingly acceded to the Tory request to call the meeting. If he supposes he will conciliate their good opinion, or lessen the abuse of their organs against himself by this concession, he is delightfully ignorant of the malignant disposition of the Tories of Charlottetown. It may be, that the Sheriff has called the meeting to let us all see what the Tories can do in facing the assembled electors of the County; but if we are to judge of the results of the meeting by the extent of their efforts to get the requisition signed, they will have small cause for mutual congratulation on Wednesday night. In this County there are about seven thousand electors. The requisition to the Sheriff, with all the labour that has been used to get it signed, had not over a thousand signatures to it up to Saturday night, and amongst those were the names of very many boys and others who are not electors, besides a great many more, all written by the one pen, and evidently forgeries. But if the whole seven thousand electors of the County had put their patronymics to the requisition, and attended the meeting accordingly, and joined in the howl of indignation against the Government,