

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, JANUARY 15, 1849.

THE CIVIL LIST.

THOUGH common rumour is well known to be a common liar, there is no doubt that she has told the truth for once, in stating that a Despatch has been received from the Colonial Office, commanding that provision be at once made for paying our own public officers out of our own Revenue. The officials themselves credit the story—they look fearfully grave and panic-stricken; and we are told that they have either actually memorialized the Queen, or are about to do so, to postpone for some time longer the execution of the dread command of her Colonial Minister. They have, no doubt, stated in their Memorial, or will state, that the Colony is too poor—too weak to take this burthen on its back; but the true secret of their chagrin may be interpreted thus: "If the Civil List have to be paid out of the Island Revenue, our Salaries will be reduced in amount; our sinecures will be abolished; we shall be wholly dependant on the will of the House of Assembly; we must be responsible to the people; we shall have no excuse for denying the right of the inhabitants of this Island to a system of Government the same as that which obtains in the neighbouring Provinces; besides, we may be transplanted in our situations, if, after the next General Election, there be a majority of our political opponents in the Legislature."

Now, although Mr. Duncan Maclean and some others have abused and blackguarded us after the most approved fashion, for hinting, that the day would shortly come when the Colony would be compelled to bear the expense of its Civil List—we are neither ashamed nor afraid to express our hearty gratification that the day has come; for in this decision of the Colonial Minister we note the prospect of a speedy abolition of official irresponsibility and monopoly.—it is, in short, the beginning of Responsible Government. Nor are we inclined to believe that the country is to be taxed and ruined through the means of this Despatch. The Home Government proposes to pay the Governor's Salary, which they have fixed at £1500, not requiring the Colony to pay any thing; we save £500 by that, besides securing the freedom of the Governor from local influences. Let the Island Legislature then reduce the salaries of some of the other Officers to a fair and reasonable amount—lop off the sinecures—and we shall require about £500 or £600, in addition to the £500 we are excused from paying to the Lieutenant Governor, to meet the entire demands of our Civil List. Then, the Imperial Government will relinquish its claim to the Crown Lands, and to the old Quit Rents, out of which fund it was intended that the Civil List should be paid. If it be asked, how are we to raise the £500 or £600, in addition to the sum set apart by our Legislature for the Lieutenant Governor, we answer, let an increased tax be put upon the lands of the absentee Proprietors. This should be done whether we were required to pay the Civil List, or not.

The country incurred an increase to its expenditure of one thousand pounds to make Mr. Palmer Solicitor General; this sum, with prudent and economical management, would pay the Civil List, independently of the Governor's allowance. We were told that, by giving the Governor the £500, we would "stave off" (this is the elegant phrase used by the Solicitor General) the payment of the Civil List; we now see how short-sighted the honorable gentleman was in reference to this question. We do not hesitate to repeat the opinion expressed last week, that the attempt at "staving off" has been the means of bringing on the determination of Earl Grey in reference to the Civil List.

We cut the following article from an Irish Paper—the *Leinster Express*—received by the last Packet. If the generous Proprietor, whoever he is, is serious, it is plain that he is shockingly ignorant about the state of this Island, when he supposes that any man in his senses would take land here on the conditions proposed by his respectable Solicitor." It is the grossest deception to propose such terms to intending emigrants.

LAND-JOBGING IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Our attention has been directed to a printed document, advertising the letting of lands in Prince Ed-

ward Island, to parties possessing not less than 400*l.* capital each; the inducement held out being a lease for twenty years, at 2*s.* per acre. Land, "at 2*s.* an acre," may sound very well at a distance; but when the outlay and time required to bring wild land into cultivation is considered, and that the 20 years would be short enough, through the labour of the tenant, and the expenditure of his 400*l.*, to produce any return, it may easily be fancied for whom he would be toiling! At the end of the 20 years it should, of course, return to the owner; or at least be paid for at a price, for which the capital and labour of the occupier might make it marketable.

This is monstrous, and cannot be too promptly exposed. We are only surprised that the respectable Solicitor, whose name appears to the document, would identify himself with a project of that description—his being the only name that appears to the prospectus. No migrant possessing 400*l.* or less, should invest his capital on such terms.

In the evidence of Mr. Cunard, (who owns one-fifth of Prince Edward Island) before Lord Montague's Committee, last year, he states that his terms of letting are 2*s.* per acre, with a lease of 999 years—by expending one-half the rent, for a given period, in making roads and other conveniences; while the tenant is secured the right at any time of purchasing the freehold at one pound per acre: yet, in the face of these facts, we have an attempt made at "land-jobbing," we believe, unexampled in any country in the universe. There would be some reason, and considerable inducement, if emigrants willing to expend £400 each in the improvement of wild land, were offered it for the first 20 years without any rent, and at the 2*s.* per acre afterwards; but the absurdity of the scheme proposed is apparent when we consider the plan adopted by Mr. Cunard, who states he would be willing to give a tenant possessing £10 capital, (which he would consider sufficient to begin upon), fifty acres of land of the very best description in the Island; reserving sufficient to be added at any future time, in the re-re of the several holdings. The Canada Company offers land for ever at an upset price of from 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre in the Huron district; or by paying interest at the rate of 6 per cent. on the amount (about 1*d.* to 8*d.* an acre), with liberty within ten years of buying out any quantity at the upset price. Various companies, too, in the United States, offer abundance of land at even a less cost, and convenient means of payment: in some instances, in lots of 25 acres at £10, to be paid for in four instalments. For instance, in the State of Georgia, superior inducements are offered.

We have no doubt but the respectable Solicitor merely acts in his professional capacity; yet it is, nevertheless, the duty of the public press to guard those who are now leaving our ill-fated country in thousands, against a much more precarious condition of life than that from which they fly. For our part, we are determined to give our best attention to a subject of such importance at this eventful crisis; and having used the best means of making ourselves acquainted with it in all its bearings, our countrymen may rest satisfied upon obtaining the full benefit of our inquiries.

Prince Edward Island is, doubtless, one of the most favourable for Emigration—possessing a fine climate, and excellent soil; but it is right that those who are disposed to avail themselves of those inducements should also be protected against a project which would render their exertions valueless to themselves and their children.

HO! FOR CALIFORNIA.

It is more than probable that the Gold Fever will extend to Nova Scotia. It is already known to our readers that thousands in the United States have already been afflicted by this disease, which in almost every case where the patient had not a strong constitution to resist it, he has been forced to depart. An advertisement appears in the *Chronicle*, offering opportunities for emigration to the Gold Region. We shall not attempt to persuade or dissuade our readers in this matter. Whilst, however, we would remind the adventurer in search of mineral wealth, that "it is not all gold that glitters," there is every reason to believe that the metal found in California is the pure article.

For the information of our readers interested in the subject, we append the following from the *New York Sun*:—[*Novascotian*.]

"There is no longer any doubt that the golden El Dorado for which philosophers, alchemists and adventurers have been searching for ages, is found. California is the spot, and Yankee enterprise the Aladdin's lamp which has thrown a startling light upon the so long obscure and almost desert sands. For three hundred years the Spaniards thirsting for gold, had trodden the treasure without discovering the bright, ductile spirit which lay there sparkling to the sunshine and storm, and the rude Indian had reared his hut for ages on the yellow dust, at the recital of which men now staring agape at the corners of our street, or running wild with schemes for emigration to the land of gold. It is no fable, no myth! Thousands of keen eyes and stout hands attest the reality of all the imagination has conceived. A million of

persons employed on the vast mine would leave space for a million more, and thousands of millions of dollars, still leave the soil an inexhaustible fountain of gold. It is not a crevice in the rock, nor a vein deep down in the earth, but a track broader than the State of New York, a very empire of gold, glittering from the earth's surface down into its dark bowels. The mire of the rivers is precious gold—the rocks are steeped with it to their lips, and far and wide, for three hundred miles in length by sixty in width, wherever the spade is struck, gold, gold, only gold! springs forth in perennial abundance. It is not the wash of the mountains, nor the pebbly plumes of isolated veins, but a solid earth of gold, reeking yellow, to every man's hand.

We cannot speak of this less soberly. The South Sea Empire was a bubble, the tulip mania was a gigantic delusion, but the gold in California is a fact attested by veritable proofs."

"The country," adds a Canadian contemporary, "where all this wealth is to be found, is said to be healthy in an extraordinary degree, and San Francisco to be one of the finest harbours in the world, capable of containing the Navies of all Europe. The back country, to the pinnacles of the Snowy Mountains, is reported beautiful, and extremely rich in vegetable productions, not to speak of its underground riches. If all these things be true—no wonder that so many adventurers are hurrying to California."

McFADYAN.—We perceive that the *Eastern Chronicle* is under the impression that Her Majesty formally confirmed the sentence of McFadyan. This is not correct. The Lieutenant Governor received no order for the execution. The Secretary of State declined to interfere, and His Excellency not being able to discover any mitigating circumstances in the case, the law was allowed to take its course.—*Novascotian*.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE RAILWAY.—The Editor of the *New Brunswick*, in remarking upon the Report of the Halifax and Quebec Railway, observes:—

The copy of the Report is said to be accompanied by a Despatch from Earl Grey, of a character, holding out the expectation that Her Majesty's Government will advance to the three colonies Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada, a sufficient sum to construct the whole line, upon their joint guarantee, and pledge of the public lands in each Colony, with certain conditions as to the employment of emigrants.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The Electric Telegraph is now ready for operation.—A beginning was made yesterday, and the line was found perfect as far as Calais. Something, however, is wrong between Calais and Bangor, but no doubt, in a day or two all will be made right. We noticed the Telegraph Office encircled all day yesterday by a crowd of wondering observers, and this certainly, even in an age of exciting marvels, is an invention to be wondered at.

When we consider the facility with which business messages can now be transmitted, and the command of markets thereby attained, we cannot but think this one of the greatest boons that could be conferred on a commercial community. Without it, indeed, we would have been quite behind the age. We are gratified to learn that one of our own folks is to be Operator here—Mr. Mount, late Sergeant in the Royal Artillery, who has been for some time engaged at Quebec, is to take charge of this Station.—*St. John Courier*.

FIRE IN PORTLAND.—Between eleven and twelve o'clock last night, a fire broke out in a House on the east side of Simonds-street, Portland, owned by a Mr. Mealy, which was consumed, with four or five others, belonging, we are informed, to Messrs. Wark, Nelson, McCandless, and Baird, before the progress of the flames could be arrested. A house belonging to a Mr. McIntyre, adjoining those burned on the north, was much injured. Several of the owners of the buildings are said to be insured, but some sixteen or twenty families have by this calamity been turned out of doors at an inclement season of the year, each losing more or less of their effects.—It was not until after much exertion that a fire engine was got over from the City, through the deep snow which encumbers the streets. The Portland engine, however, was early on the spot, and, as usual, did much good service.

UNITED STATES.

THE GOLD FEVER.—The great topic of excitement in this city, says the *New York Albion*, of the 16th instant, is the Gold Region of California, the emigration thither that the accounts received have stimulated, and the general results upon the commercial and monetary affairs of the country likely to ensue from the unexpected influx of gold. The columns of the American papers are crowded with letters from California, all confirming the official report of Col. Mason, which report will be found at length on our ninth page. The majority hail the newly discovered treasure as a mighty boon. The samples sent home to the Government have been assayed at the Philadelphia mint, and pronounced the genuine article, giving an average of 894 parts out of a thousand, the mint standard for coin being 900. Some-