The Colonial Herald,

AND

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVERTISER.

Vol. VI.] CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1843. [No. 296.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, since September, 1842.

1842. RECEIPTS.

September 20—By Balance in hand,	£	41	9 4
Feb. 3, 1843—By Two Quarterly Warrants from Government, being one half of £80 granted to the Society,		40	0 0
March 20, 1843—By Donations, including the proceeds of Sale of Shell Flowers, from Countess Dowager Westmorland,		36	14 3
By Subscriptions,		25	14 6
	£	146	18 1
March 20, 1843, By Balance in hand,	£	23	3 1
Captain Swabey,		2	6 0
	£	25	9 1

DISBURSEMENTS.

March 20, 1843, To Weekly allowances,	£	54	8 0
Casual relief,		20	10 0
Fire Wood,		17	5 6
Out of Legislative Grant,		2	14 9
Merchants' Accounts,		38	4 6
Needle Work,			12 3
Balance,		23	3 1
	£	146	18 1

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Miss Abbot,	£0	5	0	Miss Hervey,	0	10	6
Mrs. Anwyl,	0	5	0	S. Johnston,	0	6	0
Barrow,	0	10	0	Mrs. Jenkins,	0	10	0
Bayfield,	1	0	0	Lamont,	0	10	0
Bedford,	0	10	0	Lane,	0	5	0
Beer,	0	5	0	Lloyd,	0	5	0
Brown,	0	5	0	R. Longworth,	0	5	0
Brecken,	0	5	0	Lord,	0	5	0
Brenan,	0	5	0	Mackieson,	0	5	0
Miss Butcher,	0	5	0	M'Donald,	0	5	0
Mrs. Cumberland,	0	10	0	M'Donell,	0	5	3
Coles,	0	5	0	Miss C. M'Donell,	0	5	0
Cross,	0	5	0	Macgowan,	0	10	0
Cullen,	0	6	0	Mrs. W. Nelson,	0	5	0
B. Davies,	0	5	0	Peake,	0	5	0
Dalrymple,	0	5	0	Miss Pethick,	0	5	0
John Davies,	0	5	0	Mrs. Poole,	0	6	0
Desbrisay,	0	5	0	Purdie,	0	5	0
Dewar,	0	5	0	Reddin,	0	10	0
De St. Croix,	0	5	0	Miss Reddin,	0	5	0
Dawson,	0	5	0	Stewart,	0	5	0
Douse,	0	6	0	Mrs. S. Smith,	0	5	3
Fanning,	0	10	0	W Smith,	0	5	0
Miss Fanning,	0	10	0	Sunstead,	0	5	0
Mrs. Forgan,	0	6	0	Stamper,	0	4	6
Goodman,	0	5	0	Swabey,	0	10	0
Miss Goodman,	0	5	0	Tanton,	0	5	3
Mrs. Gates,	0	5	0	Thresher,	0	5	3
Grubb,	1	0	0	Thomas,	0	5	0
Miss Gray,	0	6	0	Tybring,	0	5	0
S. Gray,	0	5	3	Lady Wood,	0	10	0
Lady Huntley,	2	10	0	Mrs. Waddell,	0	5	0
Mrs. Holl,	0	10	0	Welsh,	0	5	0
Haszard,	0	5	0	Wilson,	0	5	3
Hensley,	0	10	0	Wright,	0	6	0
Miss Haviland,	0	5	0	G Wright,	0	6	0
					£25	14	6

DONATIONS.

Lieut. Governor,	£2	10	0	Mr. Millar,	0	15	0
Dr. Alexander,	0	10	6	P. Macgowan,	0	6	0
Mr. Barrow,	0	10	0	J. M'Donell,	0	10	6
Capt. Bayfield, R. N.	3	0	0	A. M'Donald,	0	5	0
Lt. Bedford, R. N.	0	10	0	Nicholson,	0	5	0
Mr. R. Brecken,	1	0	0	Rev. W. Roche,	1	9	0
The Chief Justice,	1	3	0	Mr. J. Reddin,	0	5	0
Capt. Capel,	1	0	0	Shearman,	0	15	0
The Collector,	0	10	0	Capt. Swabey,	1	0	0
Mr. E. Cameron,	0	4	6	Mr. Walker,	0	5	0
Lieut. Dawson,	0	10	0	G. Wright's fees as Crown witness,	0	5	0
Mr. Finlayson,	0	5	0				
Grubb,	1	0	0	Fine for a trespass,	0	5	0
Hensley	2	0	0	By a part of the proceeds of the sale of a Box Shell Flowers presented to the Society, by the Countess Dowager of Westmorland,	3	19	6
Holl	0	10	6				
Hon. T. H. Haviland,	2	0	0				
Mr. H. Haszard,	0	5	0				
Hon. R. Hodgson,	1	0	0				
Mr. D. Hodgson,	0	10	6				
Mr. Edward Irving,	0	2	6				
Mr. Ings,	0	6	6	By Captain Swabey, being amount of Expenses received from the Government as Commissioner on an enquiry held at Rustico,	2	6	0
Dr. Kelly, R. N.	5	0	0				
Mr. Lamont,	0	10	0				
Rev. C. Lloyd,	0	10	0				
Mr. H. Longworth,	0	6	0				
Hon. A. Lane,	0	10	0				
Mr. William M'Gill,	0	5	3				
Mr. Haszard, Queen's Printer, Account for Advertising—a Donation	£2	0	0				
					£39	0	3

WEEKLY ALLOWANCES PAID.*

Anty Lundy,				Thomas Conners,			
26 weeks, at 5s.	6	10	0	26 do. at 6s.	7	16	0
Widow Maria M'Carthy,				Mary Smith, (Rent)			
26 do. at 5s.	6	10	0	20 do. at 3s.	3	0	0
Widow M'Arthy,				Walls, do.			
26 do. at 4s.	5	4	0	22 do. at 3s.	3	6	0
Widow M'Pherson,				Mrs. Webster, do.			
26 do. at 2s.	2	12	0	18 do. at 3s.	2	14	0
Twin Children,				Samuel Jackson, do.			
26 do. at 7s.	9	2	0	16 do. at 1s. 6d.	1	4	0
Ellen Galliger,				Widow Norris,			
5 do. at 5s.	1	5	0	15 do. at 7s.	5	5	0
					£54	8	0

* These allowances still continue to be paid by the Society.

Persons who have received relief in Clothing.—Ellen Galliger, Ann Calighan, Mary Ryan and child, Widow Campbell, Widow M'Quade, Woodriff's Twin Children, Widow M'Arthy, Mary Smith, Ward, Doyle's Idiots, Widow M'Pherson, Rollins, Widow Carson, Hugh Cudmore, Neville's family, Mary Renahan, Widow Norris, Widow Partridge, Harriet Pond, Widow Catherine Barrett and Children, Widow Sullivan, Quinn, Woods, Richard Knight, Laurie, (West River;) Widow Lewis, Darby Kehoe.

List of Persons who have received casual Relief in Money, Provisions and Wood.—Ann Calighan, Widow Carson, William Porter, William M'Carty, Kitty M'Attee, Margaret Johnston, James Hughes, Widow Sullivan, Moses Curran, Robert Smith, Mrs. Webster, Isabella Brady, W. Rollings, David Lackey, Charles Fitzpatrick, Noel Mitchell (Indian,) Sarah Garriboo, Louis Jackson, Richard Knight, Family of Nevills, Ann Fooley, Widow Campbell, William M'Grath, M. Quinn, John Hinds, Susan Hanford, Judith Casham, East (Georgetown,) Richard Symonds, Lot 32, Mary Smith, Samuel Jackson, Widow Macpherson, Widow Norris, Walls, Thomas Wilson's Family.

SIDNEY MILLS.

THESE excellent MILLS are now in full operation, and the public are hereby informed, that a conveyance will leave the Subscriber's residence, in Queen's Square, every Thursday morning, at about 7 a. m., for the purpose of conveying Grain thither; the Flour from which will be returned, free of expense, to the owner, save the toll for grinding allowed by law.

J. SIDNEY DEALEY.

Charlottetown, 28th Oct. 1842.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 20.

(Debate on the Indian Petition concluded.)

Mr. THORNTON thought that if they could be induced to learn at all, it would be in their own language, and not in the English. The latter was the language of their conquerors, and we were saying to them, in effect, if you do not learn ours, you shall learn none. How can we tell their inclination. Nothing has been done to test whether they wish to learn or not, so that passing an opinion on the subject would be premature. The sum and substance of all he had heard advanced against it amounted to this, that because we never have done any thing hitherto to ameliorate the condition of the Indians, neither shall we for the future. This he thought a very convincing mode of reasoning indeed. He could not help expressing his surprise at the conduct of his hon. colleague. In Committee, he (Mr. Thornton) thought he (Mr. Macaulay) had agreed with the wording of the Report generally. We should summon the aid of our recollection to prevent us from acting inconsistently. He would call to the consideration of the House the great labor and loss of time the petitioner had already expended; and was he to be told that all this labor should go for nothing? He had been indefatigable in his exertions to serve the aborigines; he had before appealed to the philanthropy of a former House, and must he be now put off for four years more? He has applied to this House, as to a new House, and was it now expected that he should undertake a journey to Halifax, at his own expense, to get his compilation tested and examined? This would be taxing his philanthropy rather severely. He (Mr. Thornton) thought, if a suitable sum were voted, to enable Mr. Irwin to proceed to Halifax, in order to lay his manuscripts before the Indian Commissioners there, that, as the benefit of the publication would be serviceable to Indians of that Colony, there was no doubt that colony would contribute to the expense. And when we recollect the purposes for which moneys have sometimes been granted—for instance, the £5 for the purpose of building experimental mud walls—he thought the house could have very little scruple in granting a small sum for this purpose, even if it were only for the sake of an experiment.

Mr. YEO said, that £5 had not yet been expended. If the gentleman who petitioned was appointed to instruct the Indians, how he was to effect that object he (Mr. Yeo) was at a loss to know, unless he could divide himself into twenty different parts, in order to attend at the different places of resort of the Indians. The Indians do not want to learn this language, and we ought to know better than endeavor to keep them from obtaining a knowledge of our own language. He would not object to any thing that would be for their general benefit.

Mr. PALMER moved, in amendment, that after the words, "than the publishing of Mr. Irwin's work would cost the Colony," strike out the rest, and substitute the following: "But as the said work might be of service to the Indians of Nova-Scotia, where they are far more numerous than they are in this Island, the Committee recommend Mr. Irwin to submit his Manuscripts to the examination of the Commissioners on Indian affairs in that Province"

The Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said, he must adopt the often-repeated expression of the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Douse), that "the measure would end in smoke." Hon. members, he must say, give their opinions very freely, and without the slightest hesitation; and he might add, without any foundation. How can they form a just judgment of the utility of a language with which they express themselves wholly unacquainted? He knew the petitioner to be perseveringly indefatigable in his endeavors to serve the Indians, and he, at least, might be considered a competent judge of what would benefit them; but by this amendment, we put it out of his power to put his benevolent intentions in practice

Mr. MACAULAY had not heard any argument, to shew the utility or benefit to be derived from the publication of this work. This was more the question than the probable expense that would attend the printing of the work; nor is it expedient for us to take it up until we are convinced of its utility. He had known efforts made in New-Brunswick to reclaim them, and bring them to adopt habits of civilized life, but all to no purpose; they continued so for a while, and then flew off to their former pursuits. He had known one of them himself say to an acquaintance of his, "What you do this country? You keep 'em store?" "Yes." "You write 'em book?" "Yes." "Dat all same dirt!" He (Mr. Macaulay) justly inferred from this their aversion to the laws and restraints of civilized life There was no comparison at all between this tongue and the Gælic language. Who has not heard of the rich treasure of literature which that noble dialect contains? Who has not heard of the poems of Ossian, second only to Homer? And even Homer itself is translated into Gaelic, besides many other sublime productions of modern geniuses (Here the hon. gentleman continued to expatiate on the inimitable productions of the Gaelic muse, until he himself became inspired, and soaring aloft through the regions of ethereal space, he became invisible to our optics and inaudible to our ears of flesh! When the hon. gentleman again became intelligible to vulgar conceptions, we understood him to say:) These works in the Gaelic language were not published at the expense of Government, but at the expense of native Caledonians. He did not mean to depreciate the proposed work; it may be of great service, but this was not the question under consideration. He would, therefore, vote for the amendment.

Mr. COOPER believed the whole question resolved itself into this Shall we grant a small sum to enable the petitioner to lay his manuscripts before the proper persons in Nova-Scotia, in order that that Province may also contribute to their publication? If there are few Indians on this Island, they are more numerous in Nova-Scotia and elsewhere. He had heard that there was a considerable number of them settled about Quebec, and that Government had done nothing towards their education. Are we to deny to these people the benefit of education? It is very probable that what they would not learn in English, they might be induced to learn in their own language; at least, we ought to make an experiment, in order to see how far the present work may be serviceable to the Indians; surely we should allow a few pounds to ascertain if the instruction of these people be practicable.

Mr. PALMER did not think hon. members viewed the question on the score of economy alone; but whether it was expedient to instruct them in such or such a language. Many arguments appear against teaching them in their own language. In a British Colony, a uniformity of language should be preserved, so far as practicable. It was said by an hon. member, (Hon. J. S. Macdonald) that if his (Mr. Palmer's) amendment were carried, the Report will have nothing significant left. That may be true; but if the hon. member wishes to exhibit his liberality, he can move in supply, and he (Mr. Palmer) would support him in a small grant. He would wish to see them admitted to the institutions in our own language; they are an ingenious people, and might, perhaps, at some future time, take to ship-building, &c. On the whole, an English education would be the most eligible.

Mr. DALZIEL was intimately acquainted with the Indians for a long time, and wished them to cultivate the soil; but he thought it was impossible to induce them to adopt the manners of civilized life. It was no use to teach them in Mickmac. If they were taught to read and write in English, it would be the best method; they are a wilderness tribe, but if they could be induced to settle and cultivate the land, they might become very useful members of society.

Mr. D. MACLEAN could not go with the amendment, and he trusted neither would the House. He would remark that the history of the Indian race has recently been invested with an extraordinary degree of interest, from the recent investigations at *Palenque* and elsewhere, in Central America, and from the discovery of porcelain cups and glass beads in some tumuli in the Valley of the Mississippi, having characters on them resembling the Chinese. Some even go so far as to believe that the Indians are the oldest race of human beings in existence; and that the Old World has been peopled from the New, for which plausible hypothesis are not wanting. Gentlemen should consider how the moderns would prize a vocabulary and grammar of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, or of the arrow-headed characters engraved on the bricks which are now dug up from the ruins of ancient Babylon.

Mr. THORNTON concluded it would be said to these people—"Now you are a conquered people, and shall not learn any other language than that of your conquerors." Petitioner had applied to us, as to a new House, and he is to be told that nothing is to be done for the Indians for four years more. This would prevent any similar application to us in future, though we are bound in justice to do something for them; he thought the house were using the petitioner very ill, after all the pains he had taken.

Mr. MACAULAY rose—(Cries of *spoken! spoken! question!*)

When the clamour had subsided—

Mr. HUDSON said, the question appeared to him to be, whether a grant of money be applied according to the Report, or in another way. It appears that wherever missionaries have gone, they are obliged to learn their languages, in order to instruct the people. Much has been done in our own schools already for the instruction of the Indians; but to encourage this work, he thought, would be to throw away money—the preferable plan would be to teach them English. As to the remarks made by some hon members, that nothing would be done, he did not think this was the feeling of the House; for his part, he would be the last to keep back a grant for so praiseworthy an object.

The question was then put on the amendment.

YEAS.—Messrs. Palmer, Dingwell, Cambridge, Macgregor, M'Aulay, Yeo, Montgomery, A. M'Lean, Hudson, Fraser, Coles, Dalziel, Longworth, Beairsto, Rae.—15.

NAYS.—Hon. J. S. M'Donald, Messrs. D. M'Donald, Thornton, Cooper, M'Intosh, D. M'Lean, Douse, Wightman,—8.

To the Editor of the Colonial Herald.

Sir; Accompanying this Report, allow me to make a few remarks that may serve to elucidate to your readers something that may appear obscure.

About twelve years ago, I petitioned the Legislature to grant me a sum to pay for the publication of a work similar to the present. £50 were granted for that purpose, and placed at the disposal of the Board of Education; but that body, as long as it existed, persisted in saying, "*such an elementary book could not be procured;*" and as a matter of course, they were believed by the then Governor and the Executive Council, of which they themselves formed a part and parcel, and by the same House of Assembly that voted the grant. It was, therefore, useless for me to say, I had *a large folio manuscript, dated* 1741, *in my possession.* Who would be fool enough to believe me, or even the evidence of his own eyes, against so convincing a testimony as the *ipse dixit* of the Board of Education of 1830? Things remained so until this Board died a natural death. I then compiled the present volume, and submitted it to the consideration of the Board now existing, imagining that as the grant was placed at the disposal of the Board of Education, without limiting it to *any particular Board*, that the grant was still available. But the Board thought otherwise; and as thy seemed to take a warm interest in the matter, they advised me to take the legal opinion of the Attorney General, which was, "That it was quite within the letter and spirit of the grant for the Board of Education to recommend to the Executive the appropriation of a sum for the purpose intended; and that on such recommendation, he had no doubt the House of Assembly would vote a sum for that purpose;" adding, verbally, "that it was a shame that Government had done nothing for these interesting people, from whom we had *taken* everything, and to whom we had *given* nothing, in return, but our vices!" Such, sir, was my mode of procedure before laying my *memorial* before the House of Assembly.

On reading over the debate, we see the chief objections started are—It is more expedient to teach the Indians in English, because, say its advocates, there are no works of literature published in Mickmac; and also in order to promote uniformity of language. One or two hon. members broadly hinted that I was actuated by some sinister motive. I shall take up these objections *seriatim*, and bestow a hasty remark on each, which I hope the Hon. House will not consider as an infringement of *their* "*privileges;*" at all events, it is in perfect accordance with my privilege.

As the feeble advocate of the neglected aborigines, in my communication with the Hon. House, in compliance with forms and etiquette, I submitted to use the language of *supplication* and *entreaty.* Could I not use the bold language of rightful demand? I could; and I now do so. This country is the rightful inheritance of the Indians; it has been wrested from them by the hand of power, and no equivalent has been given them. True, a portion has been reserved for their use by treaty; but even *that* seems to have been lost sight of in this Island, in the profligate distribution of the land to the sycophants or favourites of a reckless Government, whose conduct in this business has entailed anarchy and confusion on the Island to this day! The Indians, in proportion to their numbers, have contributed as much, or more, to the public revenue as any class of inhabitants on the Island, and are therefore as well entitled to a share, for purposes of education, or any other purpose, as the other inhabitants. IS THIS NOT THEIR RIGHT? I have listened to the harangues of certain hon. members on "the sacred rights of property,"—"of the iniquity of laws that would invade it."—until my ears ache with the repetition; but when the *sacred* rights of the defenceless, plundered Indian come to be discussed, it is quashed by the introduction of a silly, senseless amendment. Where *then* was the sacredness of private or public property? I believe those conventional, and sometimes convenient phrases, in a *lawyer's* vocabulary, signify, "that *property* you have in possession—*no matter how you have obtained it*, whether on the *high way* or on the *low way*, and just so long as you can keep it!" But lawyers should recollect there is such a thing as the common law, and that law of nature that requires us to do to others as we wish them to do to us in similar circumstances, as worthy of the consideration of the legislator as the musty records of the barbarous usages of an oppressive despotism.

The language of the Indians is next called in question. One says it contains no books; that it is barren, and only a "tongue," and not a "language;" that it is only a dialect, differing in the different Provinces; that English is preferable; but allows they do not understand the nature of the language.

Now, it is very hard for a man to give a correct opinion on what he confesses he knows nothing about! Legislators, above all others, should be careful in their expressions, as a trifling misstatement may be productive of much mischief. The language spoken by the Indians of Prince Edward Island is the same as that spoken by those of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and the greatest part of Lower Canada, without any variation or essential difference, unless their own hieroglyphics be deemed such. There are no books published in the language, except a few pages published about 26 years ago, containing a few initiatory lessons, the Lord's prayer, and a few other less important things—the orthography of which is so incorrect, that it was totally unfit to convey the sounds of the language. It is out of print.

The proposal to give the Indians an English Education is all of a piece with that spirit of English domination that pervades even the sickly suckers of the domineering Saxons to every nation that ever had the misfortune to fall under their sway. In my own country—unfortunate Ireland—law after law was passed by the ruthless subjugators of the country, for the purpose of preventing the natives from speaking their vernacular idiom; and of this tyranny I am myself a living witness, for many a stripe the despotic English dominie inflicted on my own shoulders, for breathing my wants in my native language, lest it should interfere with the jargon of the conqueror.

When the loyal Clans of the mountains and glens essayed to place the last of his race on the throne of his fathers, was not the first act of the heroes of GLOCOE an effort to deprive the Gael of his garb, his arms, and his language, that he might the more cheerfully sit down in his degradation? Such has ever been the barbarous policy of England. Witness the murder of the Welsh bards, and the plundering the records of Scotland. Such has been the effort lately made in Canada to obliterate the French; and such the "motion" under our consideration, only on *a small, very small scale!* But if the Mickmac must pass away from this transitory scene, let him carry with him his noble dialect. The mongrel medley of his conqueror shall never supplant that pure, that mellifluous language in which he once addressed the brave and powerful warriors of the woods,—that enkindled their souls to assert the freedom of their country! I, in his name, protest against any measure tending to deprive him of the use of his language.

Suppose you teach an Indian to read English—and from the irregularity of its orthography, and the uncertainty of its component sounds, the difficulty of the task can be known only by those who have taught foreigners—you must then teach him, in *his own language*, the *idea* expressed by every English word, and *vice versa*—a task that few are competent to undertake. Whereas, if they are taught the elements of reading in their own language, the labour is all over, as they instantly comprehend what they read.

The hon. gentleman who condemned it for not possessing such masterpieces as Ossian's poems, and as not being a language, must labour under a *lapsus memoriæ*. Surely a philologist and theologian should recollect that a TONGUE is in Latin "LINGUA;" and from this comes the French words "*langue*" and "*language*," from whence is derived our "*language.*" So that, if Mickmac is a "*tongue*," it is also a "*language.*" As to the comparative merits of Mickmac and Gaelic, he can be no judge, as he understands but *one* of them; but as I happen to understand *both*, I assure him the Mickmac as far surpasses the Gaelic in copiousness, richness of expression, and elegance of grammatical construction, as the ancient Greek does the dialect of the Calmuc Tartars! As to Ossian, it is well known to be an imposture of his countryman Macpherson; and, even admitting it to be genuine, it would belong to the Irish, and not to his country!

Mr. YEO said he was authorised by the Indians to say they knew nothing about the petition. Very likely; they knew nothing of his having purchased Lennox Island from Capt. Stewart till he came to claim it, and the "*cold* reception" he got on the shores of Richmond Bay, I suppose, was the first intimation of their displeasure.

Another hon. Member considers that the Indians have accomplished the design of their creation, and therefore that every effort to arrest their total annihilation is impertinent and fruitless. He is, it seems, of that school of cold calculating *feelosofers* who set more value on *baubles*, and the mode of acquiring them, than he does on the efforts of the philanthropist to ameliorate the condition of mankind; and as *he* himself does not feel such sensations, he supposes others actuated by some sinister motive under its feigned semblance! An extract or two from the Warrant Book would soon shew who laboured with most disinterestedness—him or me. At least, though I have laboured much these years past to serve the Indians, my philanthropy or *patriotism* has hitherto cost the country nothing. Some *soi disant* patriots cannot with truth say so much.

THOMAS IRWIN.

March 21st, 1843.

TEMPERANCE PETITION.

Hon. Mr. PALMER, on rising to present this Petition, very numerously signed, made the House fully acquainted with its prayer, and very earnestly dwelt upon the importance the subject had now arrived at; he (Mr. Palmer) was aware a difficulty presented itself in the standing rule of the House, this Petition praying that an enactment might be framed; yet other modes might be adopted by the House; various ways presented itself; he hoped the House would go into a committee.

THE SPEAKER reminded the hon. member the question should be put on suspending the standing order.

HON. MR. PALMER continued; it was, he said, seldom any Petition to this House was presented so numerously signed, tho' he must admit he could not go with it the length it prayed; the effect upon the revenue of the Colony would be of too serious account; yet he was fully persuaded an incalculable advantage arose from the temperate vow to the intemperate part of the community; the money squandered in this way would be expended in others more beneficial, and the revenue would feel its influence in a little time; the numerous benefits derived from temperance he could not now detail; a most important one was this, it invariably caused industrious habits; let hon. members then consider if this was the only good derived, how vast would be its good consequences to this Colony; in Novascotia enactments had become law in respect to this matter, but the particular formation of which he was at present uninformed; but he must say we should not be behind our neighbours, we should not allow them to steal a march upon us, more particularly in a question of so great interest to the well-being of this Colony. The hon. member concluded by expressing his hope that this Petition, which he had the pleasure of presenting, would be received and read.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD reminded the House he had been refused the other day the privilege now sought by the hon. member; the House would not receive the petition he then wished to present; upon these grounds he must oppose the receiving of this.

Mr. COOPER, upon several grounds, objected to its being admitted; it prayed this House to enact a law to prevent distillation; it carried inconsistency upon the face of it, and should not have his support.

HON. Mr. PALMER wished the House to understand it was not his intention to introduce any bill this session, neither would he at any other time to the extent prayed for by the Petitioners; the hon. member urged several stringent reasons to induce the House to consent to its reception, tho' he must admit the petitioners had been ill advised in alluding to the Escheat question.

Mr. LONGWORTH would not object to the standing rule of the House on petitions being suspended, yet he could not approve of the prayer of the Petitioners, for several reasons; firstly, it would interfere with the rights of property; secondly, it would give a stimulus to smuggling, and thirdly, so great a number of officers would be required to prevent the latter, that a large expense would be incurred by the Colony.

Mr THORNTON, highly as he approved of temperance, must oppose the rule's being departed from; if, as it was stated in the Petition, one third of the inhabitants had already joined the cause, wonders had been effected, and he (Mr. Thornton) thought it had better be left to its own working; if it is good, it will prosper without enacting laws; at present we had better let it stand over, particularly as a Bill had just been passed, regulating the retail of ardent spirits.

Mr. D M'LEAN expressed his surprise at the petitioners, in not laying claim to *two thirds* of the inhabitants as having joined their cause; he (Mr. M'Lean) had been in Boston when a law was passed on this subject, but it had no beneficial effect; the hon. member then informed the House that he held in his hand an account of the consumption of ardent spirits in Scotland and Ireland, which tended to shew that even in those places where temperance was represented to be at its height, the revenue had not suffered, but, said the hon. member, I cannot vouch for the truth of the report.

Mr. DOUSE called upon Mr. Coles, he (Mr. Douse) being anxious to hear that hon. member's sentiments upon the Petition.

Mr. COLES said he perceived the Petition had attached to it the signatures of many of the softer sex, his gallantry therefore forbade him to make any remarks upon it.

After a few remarks from Mr. Rae and other hon. members, approving and disapproving of the principle, the question was put on Mr. Palmer's motion to suspend the standing rule of the House, when a division took place. Yeas—6; Nays—16.

So the Petition was not received.

BILL TO AMEND STEAM BOAT ACT.

Mr. COLES commenced the debate.—This Bill, said the hon. member, appears necessary—in the first place, the Steam Boat was to have gone regularly to Georgetown, but it was found impracticable, which caused complaint; the shareholders in that locality had become so solely on the faith of those trips; to empower Government to buy up those shares, therefore, is not doing more than ought to be done; it was also contemplated to empower the Company to purchase the 29 shares not yet taken up, and another Steamer of smaller power, when it could be accomplished, which it was thought would be a benefit to the Colony and likewise to the Shareholders; this being his opinion, he should give the Bill his support.

Mr. COOPER then drew the attention of the Committee—this matter was before the House last Session; he then gave it his support, so far as to Government taking up One hundred shares; hon. members could not forget how the concern had been lauded, how it had been held up, it was to be a capital thing for those who embarked their property in the Steamer St. George; but Government are called on again, and again, and it appeared there would be no end to it. He must oppose any more of the