THE EXAMINER

IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY, FORENOON, BY THE

Examiner Printing & Publishing Co.

OFFICE:

Corner Queen and King Streets.

TERMS—Per Annum, $1.62, if paid within the year—$1.82, postage paid; $2 if not paid within the year.

CLUB RATES.

THE EXAMINER will be forwarded to Clubs at the following rates per year—payment strictly in advance:—

5 copies one address, - - -	$ 7.00
10 " " "	12.00
15 " " "	17.00
20 " " "	20.00

Clubs may be made up at any time, but not for a shorter period than one year.

ADVERTISEMENTS—

Until further notice, Advertisements will be inserted at the following rates:—

1 square, one insertion, - - -	$1.00
Each Continuation, - - - -	00.25
Special Notices, " per line," - -	00.12

ACCOUNTS RENDERED

for subscriptions, 1st December, in each year; for standing advertisements etc., 1st June, and 1st December, in each year; for transient advertisements—when ordered out.

ALL LETTERS sent by mail should be addressed "Examiner Printing and Publishing Company," Lock Drawer, 72, POST OFFICE, Charlottetown.

N. B.—Persons subscribing for the EXAMINER any time during the month of December, will only be charged from the 1st January, 1874.

The Examiner.

Ch'town, January 5, 1874.

DISSOLUTION!!

THE Commons is dissolved. A general election is imminent. E'er another month the constituents of nearly every county in the Dominion must "go the polls." On the 5th of February next, the people of Prince Edward Island will be called upon for an expression of their political opinions. The time is short. To arrive at a correct conclusion upon the relative merits of the Government and the Opposition, and the relative merits of their respective candidates, grave deliberation is necessary. Even now, it is not too soon to seriously discuss the questions at issue; and to ask whether McKenzie or McDonald is best qualified to govern the Dominion; and whether Laird, and his followers, or Pope, and those who work with him, are best qualified to represent Prince Edward Island in Parliament.

The first question to arise in the mind of every man, is, why dissolve the Commons? why at this juncture subject the country to the annoyance and expense of a general election? The Opposition has not proved factious; every minister was re-elected—all but two by acclamation; the Government claims a good working majority of forty; the country has tacitly expressed its willingness to give the McKenzie Administration a fair trial; moreover, the people are so heartily sick of elections that, unless one is absolutely necessary, the Government which forces electors to the polls cannot but sink in popular estimation. These are some of the reasons which should deter George Brown, (who is at the head of the movement) McKenzie and their colleagues, from dissolving the Commons. The reasons for the dissolution are not so self-evident, but they may be inferred.

In the first place, the Cabinet is well assured that the Administration is more popular now than it ever will be again. In the next place, its members have not the calm confidence of men who know that they are right, and that they have the ability to maintain the right. They distrust themselves; they distrust the Parliament; they distrust the Governor General; and they know that both Parliament and the Governor General distrust them. They would, however, have adopted a more manly, a more statesman-like course, if they had postponed dissolution until after the next meeting of the people'sre presentatives. In Parliament, they could have announced their policy; they could have proceeded with the investigation of the Pacific Railway Slandea; they could have tested their strength. Then, if their fears were realized, they might, with good reason, have appealed to the people for a final judgment. But to dissolve the House without announcing the policy they intend to pursue, without investigating the Pacific Railway Slander, without testing their strength in Parliament—this is altogether inexcusable.

It is pretended that the administration wish to stamp out political corruption, and to usher in an era of political honesty; and this, we are told, is the reason for dissolution. We have no fault to find with such a wish. "Purity in politics" is a good watchword But from the lips of men who connived at the theft of Sir John A. Macdonald's letter from the Montreal Post Office, who bought the "Allan correspondence," George W. MacMullen, and place and power, with the price of their honor and patriotism—with the Canada Pacific Railway,—who, when charged by Sir John A. Macdonald, with spending two dollars in elections, to his one, dared not deny the fact—they will sound somewhat strangely. The "purity dodge" of the McMullenites ought not to catch a single intelligent elector, and we believe that it will not. To say that the condemnation of political corruption and the upholding of political purity, are the reasons why Government dissolved the House, is to say that which is not true.

But, reasons for the dissolution apart, the questions which the electors of this Province should carefully weigh during the coming month, are: whether Sir John A. Macdonald and the men who helped him to build up this Great Dominion, or George Brown, Blake, McKenzie, McMullen, and their followers, are the best men to rule the country? and whether James C. Pope, whose first work was to obtain an order for the erection of eleven Lighthouses on our coast, or David Laird, whose first work was to obtain an office for himself, worth seven thousand dollars a year by overthrowing a friendly administration, are the best men to represent the interests of this Island in Parliament? These questions we commend to the careful consideration of every elector.

AN HISTORICAL PARALLEL.

A SHORT CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF A LAND QUESTION.

SOME little time ago, we brought before our readers the present state of our Land Question, and then promised to give an account of the abolition of the seignorial rights and tenure in Lower Canada,—now the Province of Quebec. This account may be interesting, as showing how a sister Colony overcame difficulties somewhat similar to our own; and, probably, we may find there some hints to assist us in finishing our, as yet, uncompleted work.

The seignorial system was introduced into Lower Canada by the Kings of France at the time of its colonization by that country. It was, to a great extent, a copy of the land tenure of the old country, (just as ours was copied from the English) which, about that time, had been a good deal changed in the tenants' favor. Although it was intended to promote colonization, it had some serious defects, and above all, it was an exotic unsuited to the soil to which it had been transplanted.

At the time of the first settlement of the country, the King of France granted large extents of the country, called seignories, bordering on the St. Lawrence, to military officers or others in favor at Court, mostly those connected with the *noblesse*. The conditions of the grants were that the Seignor, or landlord, should do homage to the Sovereign, pay the Crown a fifth of the price whenever the seignory was sold, settle the land within a fixed time, and build grist mills for the use of the colonists. He was not allowed to sell the lands,—that is, he could not sell part of his land, though he might sell the whole seignory on the payment to the crown of a fifth of the purchase money; he could not refuse a lease of any unsettled lands on the usual terms, when one was demanded. So strictly was he bound to this, that he could not even set apart for himself special desmesnes.

These were the duties of the Seignor; his rights were—

Lods et ventes,—whenever a property changed hands, as we should say, on the sale of the leasehold, one-twelfth part of the purchase money was paid to the Landlord.

La Banalite—The Landlord alone could erect grist mills, and was allowed a toll of one-fourteenth on all the corn ground at his mills.

The right of *retrait*, or redemption—whenever a leasehold was sold, the landlord could, within forty days, come in and compel the purchaser to sell to him for the same price which he had paid the tenant. This was to prevent sales, at a nominal price, by which the landlord might be defrauded of the *lods et ventes*.

The right of *corvee*,—statute labor is our nearest word for it; but it was for the landlord. Then there was the privilege of taking free from these tenants lands, timber and stone for their own or public buildings. They claimed sole possession of the rivers and the beach, and levied a tenth on all fish taken in the waters of their domain; they claimed the exclusive use of the water power for mills or manufactories. There was also a small money rent of about two cents an acre.

It will be seen from this, that in some respects the French *censitaires*, as the tenants were called, were liable to a much heavier burden than our tenantry; and it may be supposed that a system so unsuited to a new country, would not be borne uncomplainingly. Still the landlord influence was so strong, as again and again to defeat the efforts that were made for converting the *censitaire* into a freeholder. To detail the history of the struggle would be tedious and it is unnecessary. Change a few words and you have it all in what has been written and spoken on our own land question. For above a quarter of a century the question was agitated, and one solution after another offered to be rejected. We pass these over to come to the final settlement; merely pointing out, that so long as Lower Canada was a separate province she could do nothing in the matter, and that it was not until after the union, which took place subsequently to the troubles of 1837-38, that the Land Question was satisfactorily settled.

In the year 1854, the Hincks-Morin Ministry (supported by an alliance of the clear-Grits with the old Liberals) was defeated by an amendment to the answer to the speech, and appealed to the country. On the meeting of Parliament the Ministry found itself in a minority, and, on its resignation, the McNab-Morin Government was formed. This Government was a coalition of the Conservatives and Liberals;—the clear-Grits and *rouges*, with a few ultra-Tories, going into opposition. To use the convenient language of French politics, it was an alliance of the Right and Left Centre against the Extreme Left, and a small number of the Extreme Right. The amendment by which the previous Government had been defeated, was one expressing regret that there should be so much delay in settling the questions of the Land Tenure, and the Clergy Reserves; these subjects were taken to the polls, and the new Ministry found itself pledged to grapple with them at once. We may state that Sir John Macdonald was Attorney General of Upper Canada in this Administration. Brown and Dorion were the respective leaders of the Upper and Lower Canada Opposition, John Sandfield Macdonald, Merrit, Galt and W. L. McKenzie, (not the present Premier) were with them. A. McKenzie was not then in Parliament. Sir John Macdonald took charge of the measure for secularizing the clergy reserves. With that we have nothing to do. Mr. Drummond, Attorney General for Lower Canada, introduced the Bill for the abolition of the Seignorial Tenure, which, after a long discussion and some amendments, passed the third reading by a majority of 39, (the number of members was about 130); and after some further amendments by the Legislative Council received the assent of the Governor General (Lord Elgin) at the close of the session.

The preamble of the Act is in these terms: "Whereas it is expedient to abolish all Feudal rights and duties in Lower Canada, whether they press upon the tenant or landlord, and to assure the latter of compensation for every valuable right which he now possesses, and which he will lose by such abolition; and, whereas, in consideration of the great advantages which would result to the province from the abolition of the said feudal rights and duties, and the substitution of a free tenure for that under which the properties subject thereto have hitherto been held, it is expedient to aid the tenant in redeeming the said charges, more especially in the case of these charges which, while pressing most heavily on industry and the spirit of enterprise, cannot, from their very nature, be otherwise immediately commuted, without, in most cases, either oppression or injustice, for these reasons, be it enacted," &c.

The Act empowered the Government to appoint commissioners who should estimate the value of the proprietary rights in each Seignory; but before these commissioners met, a seignorial court (composed of the judges of the Court of Appeal and of the Supreme Court) were to decide what really were the rights of the landlords, as there were several in dispute. This court met on the 4th September, 1855, under the presidency of Sir Louis Lafontaine. Attorney General Drummond, on behalf of the Government, submitted the questions in dispute to the court. The landlords appeared by their counsel, the tenants, though they might have done so, did not appear by counsel, feeling their interests safe in the hands of the Attorney General. The pleadings were long, and judgment was not given until May, 1856. The chief points decided were, that the landlord must lease lands to settlers; that he could not sell uncleared lands; that rent and *corvee* were matters of contract, not as the tenants contended fixed by law; and that all contracts between tenant and landlord must be maintained. *Banalite* was legal; but tenants were proprietors of non-navigable waters in their property. The wood and other reserves should be abolished without compensation, *Lods et ventes* and *retrait* were not disputed.

Thus guided as to the real claims of the landlord, the commissioners went to work to fix these rights at a money value. The greater part of this was done in three years; but some of it was not completed until 1862.

The Act of Parliament provided a fund of about a million and a half dollars,—the greater part, but not all, from special sources of revenue in Lower Canada,—by which the landlords might be indemnified for the loss of their rights, according to the scale fixed by the commissioners. But this sum was not nearly sufficient. An additional appropriation of two millions of dollars was made. On the whole, calculating the expenses of commissioners, etc., and the sums which were granted to Upper Canada as a set-off to the grants to the Lower Provinces, the cost to the country of 'settling the land question' has been put down at $10,000,000.

It was not left optional with the landlord to receive this commutation money. He was required by the law to do so. The value of the rights in each case was set down at so much, and, on this sum he was paid by Government 6 per cent per annum. A subsequent amendment enabled him to claim, if he wished to do so, immediate payment of the principal, less a discount of 25 per cent. Thus the state charged itself with abolishing all the feudal rights except the small money rents. These were still left to the tenant who might either continue paying them, or offer the landlord a sum in full, which, at 6 per cent would yield an amount equal to the annual rent. This, when offered, the landlord could not refuse; and thus the tenant had it in his power to become a freeholder. As a matter of fact, the majority of them prefer continuing to pay the rent.

Now, there are just two or three facts of this history to which we would call attention.

As we said in our previous article, the rights of property are not of such a nature that their possessors may not be required to part with them on equitable terms.

But these terms must be just and equitable. A landlord must be paid a fair price for what is taken from him. We see Canada spent $10,000,000 rather than act unjustly toward the landlord.

This settlement, a relief to the tenant and just to the landlord, was effected by the union of moderate men. Had the little band of ultra-Conservatives, who shrieked about the inviolable rights of property, succeeded in defeating this measure, nothing could have prevented the Extreme Left from gaining a majority, and settling matters in their own way, which was to give the tenants free land and the landlord no compensation. It would have been this, or another Canadian rebellion. The true friends of the landlord were those who forced him to accept that reasonable compromise.

We think this Historical Parallel is not without its lessons for us. When we next recur to this subject, we shall try and point out to our own tenantry how best they may lawfully agitate in the matter of the complete conversion of the leasehold into a freehold tenure.

THE VIRGINIUS.

THE *Virginius* affair has been summarily settled. She is sunk of Cape Fear. The United States Government will now be spared the humiliation of delivering her over to the Spanish authorities. One report is that the *Virginius* was in a leaky condition when she left Bahia Honda; and that her foundering was the result. Another report is that she was in good repair; that she must have been sunk by the orders of the *Ossippee's* Captain, who had her in charge—and that the United States Government connived at the act. It is to be hoped that the former report is the true one; for if the latter be correct, the United States has dealt unfairly, even perfidiously, with Spain, and cannot escape the condemnation of all right thinking men.

THE MAILMAN MURDER.

PETER MAILMAN, who murdered his wife, suffered the dread penalty of the law at Lunenburg, on the morning of Tuesday, the 30th ult. In a despatch to a Halifax contemporary, the execution is thus described:

"Long before the hour of execution every spot which commanded a view of the platform was covered. The excitement ran to such a height that the wall surrounding the gallows was torn down by the crowd previous to the execution; about three thousand were present.

After service and prayers in the prisoner's cell, the Sheriff proceeded, accompanied by the prisoner, the clergy of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Wesleyan Churches, and the prisoner's counsel, to the place of execution. The prisoner was dressed in black trousers and white shirt. He walked to the scaffold with a firm and unwavering step. He mounted the platform without assistance. He never changed color or moved a muscle while the executioner was pinioning his hands and legs; but with clasped hands looked steadily to heaven. When asked if he wished to say anything to the people, he replied: 'I would rather not; I wish to keep my mind fixed on Heaven; and handed Rev. Mr. Owen a confession, which he read. Rev. Mr. Owen then offered up a short prayer and pronounced benediction. The cap was then drawn and the executioner did his last duty. The prisoner faced death as a man who knew he had to die and how to meet death. He did not struggle. His muscles ceased to quiver and convulse in a few minutes. The crowd seemed paralyzed by the solemn scene. Silence and order prevailed. Just before leaving the cell the prisoner said to those present: 'I committed a great sin before God and my country I repent and want to lay down my life for it. I look up to Heaven and see the Crucified Lamb of God. I love to look at him; he freely forgives me now and forever. He pays my debt and don't want a cent from me; I am forgiven. I am going to a holy, happy, and rich place, where there is plenty for everyone and full pardon for the greatest sinner.'"

Milliners are in a fair way in carrying out the abolition of polygamy in Utah, notwithstanding the missionaries have entirely failed in their efforts to effect a reform. They have "bonnetted" the system with a vengeance, and now the husbands of plural wives are anathematizing the heavy bill as well as the taste for fashionable attire which has lately sprung up among the females of the Territory.

THE "HERALD," AND HON. W. W. SULLIVAN.

It is quite evident that the 'Herald' makes random assertions,—not caring whether they are proven to be true or false. He seems to be quite delighted in making strife between some of the clergy and those who may happen to take a different view of political questions from them. Would it not be well if the editor of that exceedingly religious paper turned over "a new leaf," and sought to promote a good understanding, where no misunderstanding should exist. The 'Herald's' knowledge of our Island men and politics is not very profound. He has "poured the vials of his wrath" upon the head of nearly every man who has taken a prominent part in public affairs The manner in which he now attacks Mr. Sullivan and other members of the Government is mild, indeed, contrasted with the way in which he formerly denounced the very men with whom he is now so affectionately associated. Mr. Laird, in his estimation, was "vulgar" and "ignorant,"—the air he breathed was "suffocation" to the 'Herald.' All that is now changed. So much for his dealings with *men*. His writings on *measures* are not less inconsistent. He now says that Mr. Sullivan voted against the Branch Railway Bill, in June, 1872. He never made such an accusation at the time. The circumstances were then so fresh in the public mind, that such an assertion as he now makes, would have been regarded as too absurd and ridiculous to reply to. But by distorting facts he hopes to injure Mr. Sullivan in the estimation in which that gentleman deserved to be held by the people of the eastern part of the country, for his efforts to get them the Branch Railway. At the formation of the Haythorne-Sinclair Government, Mr. Sullivan insisted on the speedy construction of the Branches as part of the Government policy. Were it not for the manly stand which he then took, it is quite probable that the people of St. Peter's and Souris would have about as dim prospects of obtaining Branch Railways, as the people of Murray Harbor have now. Mr. Laird had declared that, "for his part, he was opposed to the construction of either trunk or *branches*," and only that Mr. Sullivan used well his position, the interests of his constituents would have suffered. But what the Haythorne Sinclair Government had to concede publicly, they attempted to destroy covertly. The re-investment clauses were introduced into the Branch Bill with the hope that the Bill would be disallowed by the Home Government. This is the reason that he voted "*nay*" when the question came up, shall the report of the committee"—containing the re-investment clauses—"be agreed to." Had a majority voted "nay" with Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Pope, the "Bill would not have been *consigned to oblivion*," even for that session. The editor of the 'Herald' exposes his gross ignorance of Parliamentary usage, when he makes such a statement. The friends of the Branch Railway Bill sought to have the Bill amended; but when Mr. Sullivan could not succeed in effecting this, he voted for the Bill, even with the objectionable clauses, on its *third reading*. This is plainly recorded on the "Journal of the House of Assembly" for 1872, page 164. Yet in face of this fact, the 'Herald' is guilty of making one of the most deliberate falsehoods ever uttered. Though the Branch Railway Bill did receive the Royal allowance, yet none were more surprised than some of the members of the Haythorne-Sinclair Government. The views of Mr. Sullivan, and those who regarded the re-investment clauses in the same light, have been confirmed by His Honor the Master of the Rolls, in the case of Hunt *vs.* the Government. We understand that a despatch from Earl Kimberley is in accordance with the opinions of those who regarded the re-investment clauses as being unjust and arbitrary as they certainly were deceitful and treacherous.

THE LAND QUESTION.

MR. ROBERT SHAW—we are pleased to observe—supports the EXAMINER'S views respecting the final settlement of "our Land Question." Mr. Shaw writes to a contemporary, as follows:—

"Now that the Railway and Confederation questions have been settled and that the agitation consequent thereon has subsided, it is time that the people and politicians of this Island should direct their attention to matters of great, if not of equal importance. The land question is, by far, the most entitled to immediate consideration, and no effort should be spared to bring it to a speedy and satisfactory settlement. We are now in a better position than ever, to grapple with it, and I believe we will no longer have to contend with the difficulties and obstructions which formerly beset those who were interested in the emancipation of the tenantry from leasehold bondage. As a part of the Dominion we can call to our assistance the Government of Canada, and we have had repeated assurances that that assistance will be cheerfully and effectually given. Backed up by the power and prestige of the Dominion Cabinet, we can bring a pressure to bear upon the proprietors which the most stubborn among them will be unable to resist. Our statesmen have only to exercise some pluck and determination, and the task is easily accomplished. Thousands of acres are still in the hands of absentee and resident Proprietors, who have hitherto declined to sell,—who stand upon what they consider their rights,—who have no interest in the tenantry, beyond the collection of their rents and little sympathy for those who in a new country like this, are barely able to provide the means of subsistence. They say in effect that the land is their own property, that they can do with it what they wish, and that it would be an act of spoilation and wrong to interfere with private rights. Now, sir, I have every respect for the rights of property. They should, as far as possible, be held sacred. But there are times when private rights clash with the public interests, and in such cases, I maintain, the public interests must be upheld. The proprietors should, of course, be paid a fair value for their lands, and if they are not satisfied to accept it, they should be compelled to do so by legislative enactment. Who would think of stopping the construction of a railway, because some stubborn landholder may be unwilling that the line should pass through his farm? And why should the interests of thousands of hardworking tenants be sacrificed to gratify the whims and caprices of a few individuals? It is high time that the legislature should interpose to root out a system which for years has been the curse of this Island,—which has stifled the aspirations and cramped the energies of the people, rendering them unhappy and discontented at home, and too often driving them abroad to seek their fortunes in strange lands. I trust that you, sir, as well as your contemporaries will agitate this matter till it is finally settled, and till the last vestige of vassalism shall have disappeared from our little Island."

The Ottawa "Citizen" says:—As we go to press, our Montreal correspondent telegraphs that it is reported there that the Hon. Mr. Anglin will take a seat in the Cabinet without portfolio. Rumor limits the coming number of nonportfolioed Ministers to thirty!!

Adveritsing pays. The propietor of the London *Telegraph* is about to raise the price of advertisements to 2s. 6d. per line. The number of them has become so large as to interfere with the news, and he expects by increasing the price to make more room in his columns. The daily eirculation of the *Telegraph* is now about 170,000.

WINTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE MAINLAND.

"How To Do It."

THIS subject continues to engage attention. The opinions expressed by the EXAMINER appear to be gaining ground. That a steamer fitted to withstand ice, and keep up communication with the mainland during the early spring and early winter months, is required, is now admitted by all; that, under proper management, she would pay well, is generally believed. Many gentlemen think that even two steamers might be employed with profit to their owners. They say that one might—as suggested by the EXAMINER—be used, during summer, to carry freights between ports in the neighboring Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and this Island; that the other could obtain profitable employment as a packet to carry freight to out-ports on our coast;—and that both could, when required, be employed in carrying mails, passengers, produce and merchandize to and from the mainland. If practical men think this scheme feasible,—and many do—we see no reason why it should not be carried into effect. There is capital enough in the colony—and we trust, enterprise enough—to build two steamers. Let our people but exert themselves in the development of their own resources, and they *will* prosper.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

THE SUMMERSIDE JOURNAL.

The effort is being made to organize another Steam Navigation Company. The unsatisfactory manner in which the present Company perform their duty, and their contemptuous disregard for public opinion, have been carried a little too far, as they will find. P. E. Islanders are not naturally impatient or exacting, but it will be admitted by all, that our Steam Navigation Company have enjoyed their monopoly just long enough to make them insolent; and that they stand greatly in need of a snubbing. No surer way could this be done than by the organization of a rival company. The Charlottetown people appear to be in real earnest in the matter, and our contemporary the EXAMINER has an excellent article, pointing out the advantages to be derived from such an organization. The great object in view is to keep up communication with the Mainland just as long as it is possible to do it in winter. For this purpose an iron screw steamer, to carry mails and passengers from Souris, or Georgetown, will be wanted. It matters not to the Island, now that our Railway will soon be completed to the east, what point is selected for this purpose. There appears to be a determination among our people not to submit any longer to the state of things that have obtained here every winter from time immorial. Steam communication we must have, and the only way to have it is, as the EXAMINER justly remarks, by the people taking the matter in hand themselves. The suggestion of our contemporary that meetings should be held at Charlottetown, Georgetown and Summerside to get the people to express an opinion upon the matter, is an admirable one; and should be acted upon. The formation of a new Company would be exceedingly popular in this town, and we have many capitalists here who would willingly take stock in it. Let action be taken forthwith.

OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

DEAR SIR:—You deserve the thanks of the whole community for the able manner in which you have exposed the "HOW NOT TO DO IT" policy of the Steam Navigation Company. The public have for a long time felt the intolerable grievance of paying a ring of selfish money grabbers a large subsidy for doing that which they failed to do whenever it was the least inconvenience to the Company to do it. But your independent journal is the only newspaper that has treated the subject in a masterly and effective way. I have no doubt the result of your able articles will be that a Company will be formed which will do the work the present Company are paid for doing, but know so well "HOW NOT TO DO." Really if it were not for the serious inconvenience and loss to our traders and others, there would be something laughable in the idea of the steamers employed to do our Mail Service, lying snugly in dock, while small schooners have to be engaged to do their work. Hoping that your article showing "*how to do it*," will receive the attention it deserves from the public; and that the present iniquitous monopoly will be consigned to the "Tomb of all the Capulets."

I remain, yours &c.,

TRAVELLER.

Dec. 30th, 1873.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

SIR:—I was very glad to see that you called public attention to the present disgraceful condition of our steam communication with the mainland. Now when Georgetown and Souris harbors are both as free of ice as they are in summer time, our mails are being dragged across the straits in little boats; and the steamboats of the Company, which is receiving $10,000 a year for carrying them, are lying comfortably in winter quarters. But, sir, I think you have been scarcely fair in implying that the Company is to blame for the inefficiency of their boats. For carelessness about advertising; for neglect in notifying the public of their movements; for inconvenient hours of running,—for these things, they cannot be too severely censured. But, for their boats they are not to blame. They had a right to tender for the contract with such boats as they choose. The blame of this matter must rest with those who renewed, for *ten years*, their contract,—without any stipulation for a more suitable class of boats. And for this, the then Government, though chiefly, are not alone in fault. For before the Government could renew the contract, an act had to be passed, empowering them to do so; and that act was supported by both sides of the House. The bill was passed almost without debate, (though days were spent in wordy strife about matters of not one tenth the importance to the country) and what little was said was commendation of the excellent way in which the service was performed! Now, sir, do not be afraid to put the blame of this matter on the right shoulders; for on the Government who are responsible for initiating all money votes, and then on the Opposition, who, ready enough to carp at the doings of their opponents, seemed to have been lulled into a fatal security when the interests of the country were being thus sacrificed. It is right to say that Mr. Sinclair mildly objected to the length of time for which the contract was to be extended; but not a question was raised as to the efficiency of boats which could not get beyond the harbor's mouth, on such days as the 9th and 10th of last December.

You asked some time ago, if there was not some condition made about a boat being laid up for the winter at Georgetown, so as to run after Charlottetown harbor has closed. Have you ever got an answer to that question?

AN OCCASIONAL TRAVELLER.

SPAIN AND CUBA.

Cuba is divided into two grand Provinces—Eastern and Western Cuba; the Eastern Province being the seat of war, which has attracted so much attention during the past few months. According to the census of 1853, the population may be divided as follows:—

For Western Cuba:	
Whites	379,000
Coloured	94,000
Negro Slaves	305,000
For Eastern Cuba:	
Whites	190,000
Colored	143,000
Negro slaves	429,000
Total,	1,450,000

This population is scattered throughout the entire island, its only large city being Havana, with a population of some 200,000. Then there is Matanzas, with a population of 30,000; Puerto Principe, with 31,000, and the now notorious Santiago whose population somewhat exceeds 26,000. As in Puerto Principe, the only other island in the West Indies held by Spain, slavery exists here. Scarcely a fifth of the Cuban fertile land is under cultivation, and this, though for years her products have been much sought for by the people of other countries. The trade of England with Cuba exceeds £6,000,000 sterling, annually, and consists chiefly of imports of sugar and tobacco and exports of iron ware and cotton stuffs. The smallness of the white population is attributed to the obstacles the Spaniards have thrown in the way of its increase. Numbers of Cubans have, during the last fifty years, endured pursecutions and exile, solely in consequence of their efforts to encourage white immigration in opposition to the African slave trade. The bulk of the population in Cuba consists of uneducated immigrants, who go to the island with the sole object of making money, and have accumulated wealth by the slave trade and by the use of monopolies. So ignorant are they that 75 per cent of them can neither read nor write, whilst the native Cubans, known as the insurgents, number among them many men of the highest intelligence and of the highest culture. As for the Spaniards, they have ever been the consistent opponents of progress in Cuba—material, intellectual or social. Any advance in these directions is due to the unaided efforts of Cubans, and has been achieved in spite of the most stubborn opposition. Indeed, many of the promoters of public instruction have suffered imprisonment and exile on account of their exertions in this direction. Moreover, at one period, instruction was prohibited to the Cubans, and on one occasion a Spanish frigate was despatched to Baltimore to bring away some forty young men of the best Havana families, who were being educated in that city. Out of this number of young men, two declined to obey the orders of the Government, on which their mothers were fined, and otherwise so dealt with as to make them appeal to their sons to return to their homes, for their very lives' sake. A correspondent of the London *Times*, "Quidam," says, that agriculture in Cuba, so far as it goes, is at least a century ahead of Spain, and its progress is due solely to the efforts of well known Cubans. He says that not a sigle highway, nor a single rail road in Cuba has been helped in its construction by the Spanish Government. Cuban money and Cuban enterprise alone have given the island these absolute necessaries. Cuba had railroads twenty years before Spain, and had steamboats many years before one existed in Spain. In fine, he contends that what Cuba is she owes to her own children; and, as there is no possibility of any compromise in the present war, it is in the interest of civilization that she should emancipate herself, as soon as possible from Spain,—Spanish corruption, Spanish monopoly, and Spanish slavery. The war has been going on for upwards of five years, has killed 80,000 Spanish soldiers and over 40,000 Cuban patriots, and unless there be interference of some kind, will wage until either the Cubans are exterminated or the Spaniards are driven out of the island. The Cubans are fighting for political freedom and the abolition of slavery. The Spaniards are fighting for the maintenance of slavery, and for an unlimited lease of depotic power. They have ruled Cube as they once ruled Italy and the American continent, and are daily perpetrating deeds more horrible than any recorded in the history of their wars in the Low Countries and in South America. Such is the state of affairs: the picture is a dark one, and the outlook such a one as without the contingencies which have arisen might have called for the interference of the Powers of Europe and America. It is held not only on this side but in England, that if Cuba achieve independence she cannot do other than prosper,—opinions to the contary notwithstanding. It has been urged that if Cuba were independent she would be as much disturbed with intestine dissentions as San Domingo, but this would seem to be contradicted by the statement that though the whites and blacks are nearly equal in number no enmity exists between them, whilst they are as a unit in opposition to Spanish rule. Under a different state of affairs Cuba would seem, indeed, to offer a good field for immigration, as besides being extremely fertile, the climate does not prevent white men, even from northern countries, from performing the hardest agricultural work. This the Cubans have endeavoured for many years past to make known, but the Spanish slave-traders, backed by the Spanish Government, have always been opposed to such a movement. Notwithstanding this, however, the Cuban planters have proved, by actual experiment, that free labor is more productive than slave labor, and that the white man can do in Cuba as much work as the negro. Besides her extreme fertility, the seaboard of Cuba abounds with large, deep, well sheltered harbors, admirably adapted as sites for new commercial towns, which must inevitably spring up as soon as opened to free competition and free labor, Anglo Saxon enterprise and foreign labor. —*Montreal Herald.*

It appears that the English agent who bid $40,600 for a cow at the famous sale of fancy cattle in New York exceeded his master's instructions, having become confused as to the relative value of dollars and pounds sterling, and the animal has since been sold for $30,600 thus netting the buyer a loss of $10,000.

Five hundred children of Havre lost their fathers by the *Ville de Havre* disaster; 110 widows have heen made there. Heart-rending scenes took place each day the Havre and Southampton steamboat entered port.

Prince Arthur wanted to go see the Ashantee war, but his royal parent wasn't willing, and he had to sacrifice his ambition on the altar of filial affection.

A cattle plague has broken out in Madeira, and the cattle going hence to the Gold Coast are infected.

The *Virginius* survivors have united in an address of thanks to President Grant for causing their liberty.

Another 300 mile search has been made for Dr. Livingstone.

California pays $1,000,000 a year to Scotland for wheat bags.

New York imports 70,000 letters a week from Great Britian.

Vienna has acquired an hippophagal of 200 horses a month.

The debt of Cuba is $87,000,000.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

AUCTION!

TRADE SALE!

We will Sell at AUCTION, on WEDNESDAY, the 14th instant, at 11 o'clock:

45 Chests TEA, } Warranted.
20 half do. }
10 Hhds. Porto Rico SUGAR,
10 Bbls. American CRUSHED do.,
20 do. English REFINED do.,
20 Puns. MOLASSES,
130 Bbls. FLOUR,
17 do. CURRANTS,
50 Boxes CONFECTIONERY,
20 Sacks RICE,
10 Kegs BAKING SODA.
20 Tins MUSTARD,
38 Boxes TOBACCO,
25 Caddies do.,
8 Kegs TWIST do.,
100 Boxes CIGARS,
180 Sides SOLE LEATHER,
50 Gross Pepper-box BLUE,
10000 PAPER BAGS,
15 Casks KEROSENE,
40 Kegs NAILS, 12d., 10d., 3d.,
25 Boxes GLASS, 8x10 and 10x12
70 Boxes SOAP,
5 Casks WHISKEY,
5 do. MALT WHISKEY,
50 Cases OLD TOM,
10 Qr. Casks PORT,
10 do. do. SHERRY.

CARVELL BROS.,
Auctioneers.

Ch'town, Jan. 4, 1873.—evg n p a till sale

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 32 of 1873.

Notice is hereby given that a Lighthouse has been erected by the Government of Canada, on the west end of Sable Island, Nova Scotia

Latitude 43° 57′ N.
Longitude 60° 8′ W.

Revolving White Light, elevated 123 feet above high water, is shown from the light House, making a complete revoultion in three minutes, and showing three distinct flashes at intervalsof half a minute, —thare a cessation of the Light during one minute and a half in each revlution. In Clear weather the pacbably be seen at a distanceof about 18 miles.

The Tower is a octagonial building, 98 feet high and painted white.

The illuminating apparatus is catoptric.

The light was first shown on the 15th November last

STEAM FOG WHISTLE.

Notice is also given, that a Steam Fog Whistle has been erected in the vicinity of the Lighthouse, and directions have been given for sounding it during thick Fogs, and snow storms, eight seconds in each minute, leaving an interval of 52 seconds between each blast. The whistle will probably be heard in calm weather, or with the wind, from 10 15 miles, and in stormy weather, or against the wind, from 3 to 6 miles according to the state of the atmosphere.

WM. SMITH,

Deputy of Minister of Marine and Fisheries
Department of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, 15th December, 1873.

N. B.—A white dioptric light is also exhibited from the Light House erected in the East end of the Island, the distance between the Light House being about 20 miles—*vide* notice No. 3 of 1873.

TWELFTH NIGHT.

THE Members of St. Dunstan's Reading Room and Debating Society, assisted by Stramberg & Fletcher's Quadrille Band, Prof. Earle, H. Vinnecomb, Dr. Creamer, and others, will give a

Grand Concert,

IN

St Patrick's Hall, on Tuesday ev'ng, Jan. 6th, 1873.

Doors open at 6 o'clock; Concert to commence at 8 o'clock, p. m.

Tickets 25 cents each, for sale at Book and Drug Stores.

Dec. 29, 1873.

Charlottetown Skating Rink,

SEASON OF 1874.

	1st	2d	3d
Shareholder's Ticket	$3	$2.50	$1.75
Non Shareholder's do	5	4.00	3.00
Lady's do,	3	2.25	2.00
Monthly Tickets, $2.			
Promenade do.,	1.50.		

Three shares entitles the holder to obtain a Shareholder's Ticket.

Band nights, Monday and Thursdays.

Public admitted Monday evenings only, admission 25 cents.

W. W. CLARKE, Sec'y.

Dec. 29, 1873.—3i

Education.

ST. PETER'S BOY'S SCHOOL will RE-OPEN on MONDAY, JANUARY FIFTH. Classics, Mathematics, French and English branches taught. For further information apply to

REV. G. W. HODGSON,
St. Peter's Clergy House,
Charlottetown.

Dec. 29, 1873.—a p 2in

RAISINS.

200 BOXES, fresh and good.

AT

"ITALIAN WAREHOUSE"

Dec. 29, 1873.—1m

Famous Brand

IN Old Newfoundland and o... Superior Brown, Golden and Pale... Maderia (southside); Burgundy... pagnes; Clarets; Brandies; Whis..., &c.

The purest and best ever impor...

AT

"ITALIAN WAREHOUSE."

Dec. 29, 1873.—1m

Charlottetown Cemetery Company.

NOTICE.

AS the Act of our Legislature, passed in June, 1872, enacts, that from and after the first day of January, 1874, it shall not be lawful, under certain penalties, to inter any dead body in the Protestant burying Ground, on the Malpeque Road, in the fifth ward of this City; and as the New Cemetry is now ready for interment, application for burials therein must be made to the undersigned, at his residence in Kent Street.

Persons desirous of obtaining allotments in the Cemetry, will please apply to William Cundall, Esq., the Treasurer of the Company.

By Order
JOHN LEPAGE, Sec.

Dec. 29, 1873.

"We Bloom Amidst the Snows!"

GREEN ALMERIA GRAAFS, in kegs: Tins of Pine Apple, Peach, Pears, Prunes, Beans, Peas, Corn, Tomatoes, Marmalades, Jams, Jellies, China Ginger, Paris Fruits, &c.

AT

MACEACHERN & CO'S.

Dec. 29, 1873.—1m

PRIME PINE LUMBER!

TO BE

Sold by Auction, on Friday,

January 9th, 1874, at 2 o'clock, p. m., on

PEAKE'S OLD WHARF.

19,000 sup. ft. Pine Boards,
11,000 do do Plank, 2 inch.

From Port Medway, Ex. schr. "Mary Kate."—Usual terms.

A. McNEILL, Auctioneer.

Dec. 29th, 1873. 2in

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Commercial College,

WELSH & OWEN'S BUILDING, Queen Street Charlottetown.

EATON, FRAZEE & REAGH, PROPRIETORS.

DESIGNED TO

Educate Young Men for Business.

BOOK-KEEPING in all its branches, both by SINGLE and DOUBLE ENTRY and Collateral subjects, thorougly taught and practically applied by means of a

Complete Course of Actual Business,

engaged in by all the students. Particular attention given to

BANKING ARITHMETIC,
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE,
SPELLING, &c.

Our Course of Instruction affords a large amount of

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

relating to Business pursuits, which is of the greatest importance to Young Men intending to go into business for themselves.

No Young Man Can Afford to miss a Course at this Institution.

Business men and others interested are cordially invited to call and examine our system.

HOURS—9½ a. m. to 12 p. m., from 2 to 4, and 7½ to 9½ p. m.

Circulars containing full particulars will be sent free to any address, on application to

T. B. REAGH, Principal.

Ch'town, Jan. 5, 1874.—tf

F. T. NEWBERY

Has in Store and offers for Sale

100 Bbls. FLOUR, "Howland's Choice,"
200 do. do. Choice Bakers, { Queen of the Valley, Northern Belle,
250 do. do. No. 1 S. Fine, { Iron Clad, Bismarck, Triumph.
20 do. do. Pastry, 'Hickory Grove,'
10½ do. Graham FLOUR,
50 do. K. D. CORNMEAL,
15 do. ONIONS,
50 do. SUGAR, { Barbadoes, Scotch Refin'd, Vacuum Pan,
20 Puns. choice MOLASSES,
200 Sides Sole LEATHER,
53 Casks KEROSENE,
75 Pkgs. Congo TEA,
20 Cases MATCHES.

—ALSO—

SOAP in great variety, RICE, MUSTARD, CANDLES, GROUND COFFEE, PEPPER, SPICES, WASHING SODA, T D PIPES, PAILS, TOBACCO, STARCH, and other Merchandize.

Ch'town, Jan. 5, 1874. 3in

Tobacco, Cigars, Pipes.

JUST received, ex "Alhambra" from Boston, the choicest lot of Smoking Tobacco ever offered for sale in Charlottetown. Lovers of the weed can now be supplied with almost every kind of Bright and Dark Tobacco manufactured in America,

Contest Twist, Virginia TOBACCO.
Charm Twist, " "
Oriental Fig, " "
Navy 5's, " "
Fine cut " "
Invincible Fig, " "
McDonald's Canadian Bright Navy,
do " Solace,
do " Dark.

Also on hand a good assortment of Cigars and Pipes, which we sell cheaper than any other store in Charlottetown.

BLATCH McKENZIE & CO.

Jan., 5, 1874.

Public Notice.

Townships, Nos. 58, 59, 60 62, 63 and 64.

The Commissioner of Public Lands will attend at the following places, on the days hereinafter named, to receive payments from Tenants, Purchasers and Occupiers of Government Lands, on the above named Townships, viz:

On Wednesday, the 14th January, inst., at Mr. John Kennedy's, Wood Islands' Road.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 15th, 16th, and 17th inst., till noon, at Cartney McClure's, Esq., Murray Harbor Mills.

On Monday and Tuesday, the 19th and 20th inst., at P. Gaul's, Montague Bridge.

All persons in arrears on account of the Government Lands, not settled up or otherwise arranged for before the end of the present month, will be proceeded against without further notice.

EMANUEL McEACHEN,
Commissioner.

Crown Land Office,
5th January, 1874. 2in

BUSINESS NOTICE.

...under ... & Co., will ... conducted under the name, style, and firm of JOHN T. FRASER, & Co. Mr. Walter B. Reynolds having withdrawn from the firm by mutual consent.

Halifax, N. S., 31st December, 1873.

Referring to the above the remaining partners will continue the Wholesale Hardware Business under the above name of JOHN T. FRASER & Co., at the old stand "Jericho Warehouse."

ALPIN GRANT,
JOHN T. FRASER.

Jan. 5th, 1874. 2in

Sacks. Sacks. Sacks.

4 BALES 3 Bus. Grain Sacks, containing 250 Sacks each,

FOR SALE,

CARVELL BROS.

Ch'town, Jan. 5, 1874.—isl pat

Final Notice!

THE Subscribers notify those indebted to them, that all accounts over due, remaining unpaid after the

First of February,

will be handed to the Court for collection.

BLATCH, McKENZIE & Co.

Ch'town, Jan. 5, 1874.—p a is 3i

Notice to all whom it may concern.

I have been appointed and duly authorised, by an assignment of the books belonging to William Wyatt, Blacksmith, of Princetown Road. All persons indebted to the said William Wyatt, are hereby requested to pay into my hands all amounts due the said William Wyatt, up to the 20th day of January last passed, 1873, and I will give receipts in full for the same.

JAMES CURTIS.

Lot 33, Jan. 5th, 1873. 3in

WANTED.

AT the Gas Works, a man to superintend the sale of Coal, Coke, Tar, &c., &c., and to make himself generally useful about the Works. No one need apply who is unable to produce a good character for sobriety and honesty, from some well known and responsible person.

WM. MURPHY, Manager.

Dec. 29, 1873.—2i

POOR COPY