

mark. If I, as a landlord, consent to receive common sterling in lieu of my just and legal right of British sterling, I make a concession to popular feeling, without in the slightest degree admitting the justice of that feeling in this instance. The tenant can and does charge and receive Eighteen-pence of Island currency for the very same quantity and quality of produce for which he would have charged and received One Shilling of British Sterling. The store-keeper can and does charge and receive Thirty Shillings of Island currency for the very same goods for which he would have charged and received Twenty Shillings of British Sterling, had British Sterling continued the order of the day. All bargains, except the landlord's bargain, are equitably adjusted according to the currency; he alone is to suffer. Instead of receiving Eighteen-pence of Island currency per acre, as in common fairness I ought to receive, for the One Shilling British Sterling per acre, for my land, I am to receive only common sterling, thereby mulcting myself of Three-pence halfpenny out of every shilling, or more than one-fourth part of my just and legal dues. An author who wrote on political economy and mercantile affairs in A. D. 1696 thus, by anticipation, states my case; speaking of the depreciation of currency, he observes that "to one sort of men it is no loss, to another it is actually a gain; but to the mass of the people it is a decided loss, yes, generally to the utter impoverishing of the realm, and weakening of the Queen's Majesty's power exceedingly. Those that suffer no loss, are they that live by buying and selling; those that are gainers, are all that have torkings (leases) or farms, at the old rents. The losers are all noblemen, gentlemen, and all others that live either by a stented (fixed) rent or stipend, or do not manure (cultivate) their ground, or do occupy no buying and selling."

Next, as to Absentee Proprietors. I reside in this Island with my family, I have publicly stated to all my father's and my own tenantry, that I am willing and desirous to receive from them, as part payment of arrears of rent, all that my little establishment require to eat, drink, wear, or use, so far as they, the tenantry, can or will supply me;—what is the result? You may meet me, week after week, in Charlottetown Market, purchasing hay, oats, flour, firewood, &c. &c., for the use of my horse, cow, servants, and family. This is great encouragement, (is it not?) for Absentee Proprietors to become resident? I will say nothing of those political and local circumstances and excitements which, to my certain knowledge, have deterred not only proprietors, but scores of respectable, desirable, and moderately wealthy persons, who are not proprietors, from coming to this Colony;—but I confine myself to the facts which I have stated, as personally affecting myself,

And remain, dear Sir,

Your constant reader,

ROBERT BRUCE STEWART.

We have little to say in reference to the facts stated in the above letter. The candor and independence with which Mr. Stewart has stated his own case, entitles him to very favourable consideration. We could wish that all the Proprietors had similar statements to offer. Although we may differ with Mr. S. and even with our late Lieutenant Governor, as to the 1s. 6d. per acre being a moderate rent for lands, we had no wish to include him in the general censure when we declared, that high rents, short leases, and absenteeism, contributed largely to produce that general poverty which exists amongst the mass of the Tenantry. However he may manage to pay the 1s. 6d. out of the produce of a well-cultivated farm, we are satisfied that no poor tenant can pay it upon a tract of land which years of toil have not rendered amply productive. The generosity or fairness of one landlord does not excuse the entire class, and consequently does not refute our proposition. Thousands of acres are rented for a much shorter term than 100 years, and thousands of tenants have to pay a much higher rent than 1s. 6d. Absenteeism is an evil, though in many cases, the absentees may be "more sinned against than sinning;" it is an evil, if for no other reason than this: it places a class of people over the tenants who first seek to advance their own interests, and secondly, the interests of the absent proprietors. The tenant is too liable to suffer between them. There may be some good agents—and we have no doubt there are—but we should be very loth to write their panegyric, and take them in the lump.—[Ed. Exr.]

NATIVES VERSUS "ENGLISH GENTLEMEN."

Some merry wag has perpetrated a rather ludicrous joke at the expense of our worthy Queen's Printer. We allude to a communication which appeared in the *Gazette* of Tuesday, signed "A Colonist." The gist of it is simply this: In the filling up of seats in the Councils of this Island gentlemen have been selected who had not the felicity of being born upon the soil, but who had the audacity to come from England, and invest their capital here—bringing a profound knowledge of all the principles of the Constitution of the Mother Country, and an ardent desire to preserve and maintain her institutions—men whose minds are strengthened by experience—enriched with knowledge and polished by education; but most wofully lacking that ductility which is the grand characteristic of Charlottetown Toryism, and which should be the chief qualification—evidently in the opinion of "A Colonist"—in every man who would aspire to participate in the administration of the Government,

—lacking, too, that humility which should prompt them to make a surrender of their obedient souls to the dictates of some few superannuated shopkeepers and official monopolists;—whilst native born gentlemen—"modest" men like Mr. Haszard—aye, and wise ones—the honoured descendants of the valiant refugees who could not suffer their sweet souls to be contaminated by the poison of rebellion in Republican America—have been suffered to bud, blossom and fade in blank obscurity, presenting another sorrowful illustration of the truth of the poet's lines:

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its fragrance on the desert air—
Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The deep unfathom'd caves of ocean bear."

Seriously, "A Colonist" thinks that Mr. Haszard ought to have been made, at least, an Executive Councillor long ere this; and Mr. Haszard, not seeing the quiz of the thing, and all of a sudden strongly impressed with a notion of his mental superiority,

"Feels like one who treads alone
Some banquet-hall deserted,"

and wonders how any Governor could have been so unkind of his talents as not to have made him one of the pillars of the State. "Natives ought to have been promoted," cries "A Colonist"—"Natives ought to have been promoted," echoes Mr. Haszard; but in their virtuous indignation they have forgotten two very important facts: first, that when Mr. Coles, who is a native, was called to the Council, he was cried down by the whole clique, voted against by Mr. Haszard, and blackguarded by his favourite amanuensis. A Jew, a Turk, or a Hottentot, would have been more acceptable than a "Native." And second, that Mr. Haviland and Mr. Pope have been promoted to a great number of offices; they, too, are "English gentlemen," and we will be bound to say, that if every office in the gift of the Crown, was bestowed for their benefit, or left at their disposal, our sorrowing and ill-treated Queen's Printer would offer no opposition or objection.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—The ever-memorable Foreman of the ever-memorable Grand Jury who, in the last June Term, found a Bill against the Hon. George Coles, yourself, and others, on a charge of Riot, because a few panes of glass were broken on the night of Mr. Coles's election procession—has made an effort in the "Islander" of yesterday to blow up one of those bubbles for the making of which he has become celebrated since his arrival in this Colony. Now, Sir, from the views sought to be inculcated by Mr. T. E. Tremain, on the Currency question, one might think, that he is a very sincere friend of the farming population—that his financial scheme would be the means of advancing their interests, for, in the opinion of this financier, a fair price for grain is a positive injury to the agriculturist, and that, in order to make the Island a second Golconda, or every man as rich as Croesus, we should go back to the good old Halifax standard; for then the merchant, in order to make his remittances, would not be compelled to buy the farmer's produce. He says the farmer has lost by the change from the Halifax to the present rate of Island currency, as the merchant has since been obliged to increase the cost of his goods 20 per cent. to make up for the difference of exchange. Now, what is the real fact? I remember when Mr. Tremain came to this Island as a merchant,—the English shilling then passed for 14d. to 15d. and the Sovereign for 25s.—and, on reference to some accounts with which I was furnished by him, I find that he sold Tobacco at 2s. per lb. Tea at 5s., Sugar from 8d. to 10d., Molasses 4s., and every kind of Dry Goods 50 per cent. higher than what is now demanded for such goods in any shop in Charlottetown; while the highest price given for produce in those days was—4s. per bushel for Wheat, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. for Oats, (which was often sold at 1s.), Barley from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d., and Pork never ranged higher than 2½d. per lb. But since the Currency rose to its present rate, Produce commands from 50 to 100 per cent. more, and all kinds of merchandise have fallen 50 per cent. at least. Mr. Tremain himself will now sell Tobacco for 1s. 1d. far superior to what he formerly sold at 2s. Sugar at 6d., Tea 3s., Molasses 2s. 6d.; and Oats, as he says in his letter, ranges from 2s. to 2s. 6d. This statement plainly enough shows, that instead of losing, the farmer has gained materially since the change in the Currency. You will agree with me, Sir, and so will every intelligent farmer in the land, that it does not require a Solomon to perceive who the real parties are that Mr. Tremain would gain benefit by the publication of his financial scheme.

I am, Sir, yours,

A FARMER.

THE GEORGETOWN MEETING.

The following letter will shew that we were right in the doubt we ventured to express as to the necessity there existed for calling a Public Meeting at Georgetown, on a recent occasion, to complain of the inefficient protection to life and property at that place.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Charlottetown,
January 20, 1848.

SIR;

I am in receipt of your letter relative to the late Public Meeting at Georgetown, which I laid before the Lieutenant Governor, and I have received His Excellency's instructions to transmit to you for the information of yourself and the local Magistracy of Georgetown, the accompanying copy of a communication, which, by command of His Excellency, I have this day addressed to William B. Aitken, Esquire, expressive of His Excellency's disapprobation of his conduct in having presided at the Meeting referred to. I am, &c.,

T. H. HAVILAND, Sec'y.

To HUGH McDONALD, Esq.,
Senior Magistrate, Georgetown.

(COPY.) SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Charlottetown,
January 20, 1848.

SIR;

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th January instant, relative to the meeting at Georgetown, on the

1st of this month, which I laid before the Lieutenant Governor, and I am commanded to express his regret, that he does not consider the statement made by you, in explanation of your having presided at that meeting, to be satisfactory.

His Excellency is of opinion that as one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, you ought to have been aware that if any cause of complaint existed against the authorities of Georgetown, the proper and evident course was to apply to the Executive Government, and to state the grounds for such complaint, when it would have been the duty of the Government to enquire into them; instead of this, His Excellency finds you presiding at a Public Meeting, at which Resolutions, condemning the conduct of the local Magistracy, and accusing them of neglect of duty were adopted and ordered to be published; from the tenor of your letter, His Excellency is willing to believe that you acted inadvertently, and that you did not mean to concur in the Resolutions alluded to; the fact, however, still remains, that you occupied the Chair at the meeting, and nothing appears in the Resolutions, as published, to show that you disapproved of them.

I am, therefore, directed to convey to you the expression of His Excellency's disapprobation of your conduct.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. H. HAVILAND.

To W. B. AITKEN, Esq., J. P., Georgetown.

These letters are followed by a communication signed by Hugh McDonald, W. McKay and W. Sanderson, Esquires, three of the Magistrates of Georgetown, in which it is emphatically declared that no "riotous or disorderly proceedings" occurred to warrant the calling of a public meeting—and "no further measures" deemed "necessary at present for the protection of life and property in Georgetown." We extract the following paragraphs from this communication:

"We have not seen nor heard of any riotous, nor can we say disorderly, proceedings in Georgetown, unless what has arisen, in a few instances, by cases of intoxication, the facilities to which, we are sorry to say, in such a limited community, are far more than adequate, and the inducements held out by certain parties, who appear to have been the principal originators of this Meeting, are far from creditable to themselves, and tend in a great measure, to produce the disorders complained of.

"We have not heard of any person's life being threatened, nor in danger, in Georgetown; neither have we heard of nor seen any personal property wilfully or intentionally injured; nor has any complaint of such been made to us, individually or collectively, at the present time or previous, without receiving our immediate attention—if we except what we have heard occurred at this Meeting, wherein we have been informed that one of its principal declaimers was publicly accused of offering a certain sum of money to induce an individual to set fire to a widow's property, situate in Georgetown.

"We are truly sorry that any number of the respectable inhabitants of Georgetown should have countenanced such a meeting, and the absurd proceedings thereof; tending, as it must do, to their own disadvantage, as representing a community where anarchy and confusion is the order the day, and where life, as well as the rights of property, are disregarded. But we trust a discerning public will only see in this, and this *Georgetown Meeting*, an exemplification of that envy, malice, and vindictiveness, which is the moving principle that actuates certain parties in and about Georgetown, and which may be perceived in this as well as in some of the late proceedings which have taken place in this community.

"We do not hesitate to say, that we consider the Resolutions passed at that Meeting one of the most wanton and disgraceful libels ever cast on a portion of the inhabitants of this Island; for in our opinion—and we appeal to the Calendar of the Supreme Court for King's County, and likewise to those individuals whose business leads them from time to time to be partial residents among us—the people of Georgetown, with few exceptions, and the surrounding country, are as peaceably-disposed, orderly, and respect the rights of society, equal to any class of Her Majesty's subjects in this or any other British Colony."

Treasurer's Office, Jan. 25, 1848.

WARRANTS from Number One Hundred and Seventy-three (173), to Number Two Hundred and Ten (210), both inclusive, of the date of the 1st May, 1845, will be paid at the Treasury on demand, together with the Interest due thereon.

J. SPENCER SMITH, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Office, Jan. 10, 1848.

NOTICE is hereby given, that all Treasury Notes now afloat or in circulation, which have from time to time been issued from the Treasury of this Island, under and by virtue of the several Acts or Laws of this Colony, authorising the issue of Treasury Notes, are called in; and all persons holding the same, are required to present them at my Office for the purpose of having them exchanged for Notes of new and improved design, in the terms of the Act, 10 Vic. Cap. 12.

By Command,
J. SPENCER SMITH, Treasurer.

Days for Exchange, Mondays and Thursdays during Office hours.