

The Herald.

Wednesday, December 25, 1867.

REPUDIATION.

IN the obituary of the late Hon. Mr. Whelan, which appeared in the *Islander* of Friday last, a sentence occurs which made more than a passing impression upon us. In palliation of any harsh expressions that may have occurred in the writings and speeches of the deceased, the editor of the *Islander* very truly pleads the debasing influence which a participation in the petty contests of local politics exercises. Shakespeare, than whom no greater judge of human nature ever lived, defines politics in general thus, in the third scene of the third act of *Timon of Athens*:

"The devil knew not what he did when he made man politic. He crossed himself by it; and I cannot think but in the end, the vitiations of man will set him clear."

Now, it is not the pettiness of the politics of this Colony which renders them debasing; but rather the dishonesty of politicians. Many politicians in the neighboring Republic, for example, are debased enough in all conscience, although the subjects they have to grapple with are national in their character. It is the inherent baseness of the men themselves which renders politics odious. The surroundings attendant upon an active participation in political contests too often possess a debasing influence; but it matters little to a man of principle and honesty of purpose whether he is a village statesman or the councillor of a mighty nation. In either position he can retain his character. We are prepared to admit that the fickleness of popular favor naturally tends to make politicians selfish and insincere, but in the great majority of cases the debasement observable in the rulers of a state, whether large or small, proceeds, we repeat, from an innate worthlessness of character. In a commonwealth where popularity was the passport to official position, *Aristides* preserved the character of JUST; and so might all politicians if they acted from the conviction of right alone. In such case there would be less of that bickering and heart-burning than that which too often disgraces and divides modern christian society; and we would have little reason to deplore the debasing influence of political warfare. We have no doubt that an acute observer like the Editor of the *Islander* endorses this view of the case, and therefore it is that we read with regret his attempt to raise a mischievous agitation among the land holders of the Colony—an agitation which, while it may serve an ephemeral purpose by embarrassing the Government, will yet recoil with disaster upon himself and the party in whose interest he is. The object of the "*Islander*" is to persuade the purchasers under the Government of the Selkirk Estate, that they have paid too much for their holdings and that although they have voluntarily bound themselves to pay a certain price for their lands, and are legally bound to pay the same, still they should attempt to repudiate their agreements. The much denounced Tenant League never went further than this, and no paper in the Colony was more zealous in execrating the principles of the League than the "*Islander*." If it was wrong to incite the tenants to repudiate their obligations with their landlords, it is equally wrong to incite them to repudiate their obligations with the Government; and the criminality of the "*Islander*" is all the graver from the fact that the editor of that paper was one of the parties who agreed to the valuation of the Selkirk Estate, and assisted in bringing the settlers thereon under such valuation. It is an easy matter to persuade the tenants that they pay too much for their lands; but once such a belief is raised, it is not quite so easy to allay it. The Editor of the *Islander* may find this to his cost in the future if the present Government should deem it advisable to establish a precedent by yielding to the demands of the occupants of the Selkirk Estate from the injudicious agitation of that paper. It is moreover, unfortunate for the Editor of the *Islander* that he so long neglected the interests of his former constituents, and only discovered when his opponents came into power that the poor Highlanders were compelled by himself and his friends to pay too large a price for their lands. We are unaware whether they have done so or not, but we would advise the occupants of the Selkirk Estate, as well as those of various other Estates on the Island, to ascertain first whether they really have been charged too high for their lands by the Gray and Pope Government, and whether they have already paid the first cost for the same over and above working expenses, before they involve themselves in law expenses and agitation to

escape their accruing liabilities. If the purchasers of the Selkirk Estate are not content to pay a trifle over the original cost of their lands in order to enable the Government to assist their fellow-colonists who are still under the bonds of landlordism, they can easily ascertain at the Land Office, by a committee of three intelligent men, the information which they desire. If the result of their investigation confirms the *Islander's* statement, a memorial to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council will meet with that attentive consideration which should characterise a Government earnest and zealous—as we sincerely believe the present Executive to be—to assist by every possible means the cultivators of the soil of this Island. This course will not only not entail any expense upon the tenants, but is also the only feasible one to obtain a redress of any grievances under which they labor, in being compelled to pay the price agreed upon by themselves for the lands which they occupy. We have no doubt the good sense of the tenants themselves will lead them to view the matter in this light, and dictate to them the best course of action without further advice from any quarter.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

GENTLEMEN;—

About nine months ago, when you so far honored me with your confidence as to elect me one of your Representatives to the House of Assembly, I assured you that I was not an office-seeker. In fulfilment of that promise, which was dictated by a consideration of the long and valued services of the late Hon. E. Whelan, I refused the office of Queen's Printer, which was offered to me by the Government in the month of April last. I am aware that, in many particulars, I have failed in my official position to give you that satisfaction which you, perhaps, anticipated, and which I myself would desire; but in extenuation of this, the peculiar difficulties of my position must be borne in mind—the short time allotted to me to exercise the power placed in my hands, and the trouble arising from the want of a thorough knowledge of the various localities in the District, and its wants. These difficulties are being gradually removed, and I still confidently entertain the sanguine hope that, reconded by the active support of my colleague, I shall be able to satisfy the reasonable expectations of the large majority of you. As to any promise of a public or private nature which I made previous to the last election, I can honestly say that I have earnestly labored to redeem it, as far as my influence and means would allow me.

With these preliminary observations, I will at once proceed to state the cause of the present address. As you are already aware, God, in his mysterious Providence, having summoned the late lamented Hon. E. Whelan, Queen's Printer, from this world, a vacancy has occurred in the office held by him, which the Government, without any solicitation on my part, has asked me to fill. After due consideration, I have consented. As a consequence, my seat in the House of Assembly will become vacant, and I shall appeal to you straightforwardly and fearlessly, for re-election.—If, from the short experience you have had of me, you still retain sufficient confidence in me to again entrust your interests in Parliament to my keeping, I promise to guard them and advance them to the best of my ability. My political views have undergone no change since I last addressed you. If the roads and weather will permit, I will personally see as many of you as I possibly can between this and the day of election, in order to give an account of my stewardship whilst your representative, and to receive your instructions for future guidance.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

EDWARD REILLY.

Cl'town, Dec. 25, 1867.

EXPLANATION.

In wishing our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, we have to offer an explanation for the present diminished appearance of the *HERALD*. The Queen's Printing having been unexpectedly bestowed upon us, and not having been prepared for it, we are forced to economise our printing paper for the *Royal Gazette* until we obtain a supply which we have ordered across the Straits. As we do not expect this supply within eight or ten days, we prefer to omit publishing the *HERALD* next week. On the week following, however, we will appear before our readers in our usual dress and dimensions, trusting that the enlarged charity and good feelings which actuate our readers at this season of social festivity, will lead them to overlook our defects for the time being. "The compliments of the season to you all."

ROYAL GAZETTE NOTICE.—Having been unable to obtain the *Royal Gazette* list from the Examiner Office, we have to request all those who may have subscribed for or are entitled to the *Gazette* to send in their names to this office so that we may be enabled to forward the paper to them. All advertisements of Stray Cattle, &c., must invariably be accompanied by the cash to secure insertion.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—16 lines or under, 5s; and 1s. for each continuance. Larger advertisements at proportionate rates. Annual subscriptions 6s.

THE MAILS.

THE mail couriers effected a crossing for the first time this season, on Wednesday last, from Cape Tormentine to Cape Traverse, with several mails which had accumulated for the previous fortnight. The mails were forwarded to Charlottetown the same night, and, notwithstanding their unusually large character, the Post Office authorities, with a despatch worthy of praise, assorted and distributed them within a few hours after their reception. We have not had time to more than glance through the large number of exchanges we received, and whatever of interest we have noticed in Colonial, American, and European affairs will be found in to-day's paper. The English Mail for this Island, which arrived in Halifax on Tuesday of last week, was not received here until Saturday night.

By telegraph to the Charlottetown News Room, we learn that the Dominion Tariff, which imposes a duty of ten cents upon all imported oats and other grain, and four or five cents upon butter, potatoes, &c., does not apply to this Island or Newfoundland, whose products are allowed, as usual, to enter all parts of the Dominion duty free. We are glad of this, not on account of the importance of the trade between the Dominion and this Island; but because of the bad feeling which such a discriminating Duty (if it had been carried into effect against this Island,) would have excited, and because it would undoubtedly have led to retaliation, by this Legislature imposing a prohibitive duty upon Canadian flour, which might have been done with impunity, whilst the Nova Scotia and the New Brunswick consumers would have had to pay "through the nose" for the additional duty imposed upon Island produce.

At the departmental elections held in Nova Scotia on the 12th inst., the Government officers were returned by overwhelming majorities, where a contest took place.

Mr. Seth D. Shaw opened the following subject for debate at the Charlottetown Debating Club on Friday evening last, viz:—"Is man the creature of circumstances?"

The Young Men's Christian Association have opened a Reading Room for the benefit of the members of the Association in the building near the Union Bank formerly occupied as Ale Depot for Smith's Brewery.

OUR FISHERIES.

On motion of Capt. Fortin, a return has been made of all sums paid by Americans for license to fish in our waters for the past two years, and the following are the returns:—

Nova Scotia.—In 1866, 341 vessels at 50 cents per ton, yielding \$9,368 50; in 1867, 277 vessels, at \$1.00 per ton, amounting to \$13,122.

Canada.—In 1866, 10 vessels, by schooner La Canadienne, at 50 cents a ton, amounting to \$296.

New Brunswick.—In 1866, 1 vessel, at 50 cents per ton.—\$13.

Total for two years, \$23,109.50.

P. E. Island makes no returns to the Dominion Parliament, and this year a great number of licenses have been issued by the Government of that Province, to the great benefit of its Treasury. But even if we could suppose that during the two years the Island issued as many licenses as all the other Provinces put together, how paltry a price \$23,109 a year is for fisheries which we have been so fond of calling invaluable? The whole amount would scarcely pay for one month's expenses of the gunboat employed to afford a quasi protection to the fisheries.

And this is the way Confederation protects our fisheries.—[St. John Freeman.

On the 22nd ult., a girl about 18 years of age, named Amelia McGregor, a native of Prince Edward Island, living in a family at East Gloucester, Massachusetts, committed suicide by hanging herself from the stair-rail in the front entry of the house. Disappointment in love is said to have been the cause of the tragedy.—[Hix Reporter.

News by Telegraph.

London, Dec. 8.

Fears are entertained in Paris of a Ministerial crisis, in consequence of the last speech of M. Rouher on the Roman question before the Corps Legislatif.

The speech of the French Minister, M. Rouher, in which he said that Italy should not take forcible possession of Rome, gave rise to an angry debate in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday. Prime Minister Menabrea informed the House that he had asked the French Government for an explanation of the speech, and he expected to receive a reply from Paris by Monday. He added that Italy could only