had caused me to be brought up and educated as a lady, in order that he might speculate on me when I grew up. He took great credit to himself for what he had done, but said he expected to be well paid for his investment. It was his purpose, he declared, that I should marry some rich man, who would be able and willing to take care of him, so that he might spend the remainder of his life in ease and comfort.'

"It was useless, then, to speak to him of me, as I am by no means rich."

"Of course it was, especially as he went to mention the name of the man whom he had picked out for my husband, and whom he intended that I should marry. Who do you think it was, Henri?"

"Not knowing your father or his acquaintances, I can not even guess."

"Give me your arm, Henri, and let us walk out toward the suburbs. Of all the men in the world, who do you think it was?

'I can think of no one but the President of the United States, or Mr. Astor."

"Nearer home than that, Henri Labardie; it was James Musson!"

"My God exclaimed the young gentleman, whose interest seemed to be suddenly excited. "This is a serious matter, Jeanette. That scoundrel James Musson? He is reputed to be rich; but he is known to be a forger, and no gentleman will associate with him.'

"I know it. You have told me what he is, and the man is hateful to me.'

"What did you say to this proposal, Jeanette?'

"Nothing about you, you may be sure, for that would only have made the matter worse. As soon as I could recover from the panic into which I was thrown by the mention of the name of James Musson, my resolution was taken, and I pretended to assent to his plan. This pleased him, and he said that he would not hurry me to the marriage, but would come to-morrow morning to take me from Madame Pinnette's. Then he was kind enough to go away, and I noticed, Henri, that he had been drinking rum.'

"A fine speculation, truly! It is no wonder, Jeanette, that you can not regard him as your father. What resolution was it that you say you had formed?"

"That I would not be sold to any man, and least of all to James Musson. I decided that I could not go with my father—if he is my father—to be used by him for any such purpose. I resolved that I would marry no one, if I can not marry the man of my choice. When Mr. Barteau comes for me in the morning, he will not find me at Madame Pinette's. I must fly from him and must hide from him."

[*To be continued.*]

The Proposed Cession of Gibraltar by the British.

We gave recently several of the arguments urged in favour of the proposition, English Press, to give up the fortress of Gibraltar to Spain in exchange for the port of Ceuta opposite. It may now be interesting to note some of the arguments used on the other side. Since wooden sailing steamers gave place to iron-clad steamers, the value of the British nation of a navel station close to the enterance of the Mediterranean has been much enhanced. The old port of refuge has now become a calling station, and so long as England holds India she must have naval stations at intervals as stepping-stones on the way. The advocates, however, who urge the English people to yield up Gibraltar, asserts that a better position might be found equally near to the mouth of the Mediterranean, in Ceuta.—But even they acknowledge that Ceuta is not now a port. They assert that five years and a million and a half of money would be required to make the secure harbour and the defensible fortresses needed. Even this estimate is probably below, rather than beyond, the mark. Ceuta would require to be newly fortified, the old works being of little or no value; and every one knows what new fortifications are apt to cost. It cannot be supposed that Great Britain would be willing to give up Gibraltar before Ceuta is prepared, and, in the meantime, who is to design and build the new works? Will Spain permit such a temporary occupation of both places as would be necessary, or is the construction of the fortification to be taken on trust? These difficulties would stand in the way even if Ceuta were proved to be superior to Gibraltar as a naval station. It is also taken for granted that [...] the sovereign not only the peninsula, Spain would [...] to afford but sufficient of the mainland [...] space for the construction of such advanced works as are necessary to keep an enemy's batteries at a sufficient distance from the port. This is exactly the difficulty that stands in the way of making Gibralter perfect for its intended office. Still nature destined Gibraltar to be a stronghold, whether possessed by England or some other Power. The place is naturally more defensible than Ceuta. The garrison is more than ordinarily protected. A large number of guns are in such elevated positions that they can attack the only weak part of iron-clads—their decks. The one thing needful appears to be the erection of a high and solid mote, behind which ships could supply themselves with fuel and stores. Much time and money would be required before Ceuta would possess either a harbour or sufficient defences. Again, in retaining Gibraltar, Great Britain would prevent its occupation by any other naval Power, and probably for the sake of Spain, as well as the protection of her own commerce, it is well that a fortress so much coveted should be in the hands of a peaceably-disposed nation.—*N. Y. Albion.*

A RELIGIOUS TOPSY.

A GIRL POSSESSED OF THE DEVIL.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

At the St. Elizabeth Hospital, on Eleventh street, in this city, there is confined a girl about twelve years of age, who is very singularly affected. For nearly a month now she has been apparently possessed of the devil. She is a resident of Cincinnati, and after suffering for three weeks at home, requested to be brought to the above hospital, probably thinking that the demon of His Satanic Majesty did not extend south of the Ohio River. When placed in a carriage for removal, everything went smoothly enough until the horses reached the suspension bridge, when they halted, and for a considerable length of time steadily refused to go any further. Finally they allowed themselves to be led across the bridge, and having reached the other side they manifested no contrariness until they arrived in front of the hospital, when it was found to be utterly impossible to get them to enter the yard. The girl had to be lifted out of the carriage by main force, and carried into the hospital. It was proposed to take her into the chapel to see if prayers and the sanctuary would have any influence over the evil spirit, but on reaching the door her body became as rigid as a statue, and the combined strength of several men was not sufficient to force her in, although she professed perfect willingness, and seemed distressed at her inability to comply with their wishes.

Father Rotter, the priest in charge, then suggested that she be taken into the sacristy or vestry-room, and after considerable effort they succeeded in getting her in there and from there into the chapel, where, after some of the spirits had been exercised, she seemed somewhat to re over her self possession. But she appeared still to retain an aversion to holy things, being unable to recite her prayers. When asked to pronounce the name of Christ she was unable to articulate, and when she attempted to write the pencil dropped from her hand, and her arm became perfectly motionless, but she wrote and pronounced without difficulty the word "devil." When the Sisters offered her "holy water" she became violently agitated, and almost went into convulsions, while a glass of plain water was accepted by her and drank freely. Upon one occasion Sister Amelia, the Mother Superior of the institutions, went into the girl's room, wearing a piece of the "true cross," when the girl was thrown violently across the room by some invisible force, and went into convulsions, and remained so until the holy relic was taken from the room, when her agitation ceased immediately. The girl has a very amiable disposition, and her strange affliction seems to trouble her in mind as much as in body. She declares that she is controlled by some mysterious but irresistible power that is always forcing her to evil. We understand that under the kind attention of the Sisters she is recovering, and bids fair soon to recover her self-possession, though she requires the closest attention and cannot see company. Truly, the age of miracles is not yet passed.

ITALY AND ROME.—The Italian Government, it is said, now proposes to adopt a new attitude with respect to Rome, and to ignore, so far as possible, the existence of both the city and the Pope, which governs it. The Vatican has wind of the intention, and is much annoyed in anticipation. All attempts to arrange friendly terms will henceforward be abandoned as utterly useless, on account of the dogged immobility of the Papal counsellors. The Italian Government will try to do without Rome in every way, and to await events. So far as it is possible, they will tobae the small piece of the Peninsular still condemned to Papal rule. They will leave it to its priests and its mercenaries, its Zouaves and Antibians, its French divisions, its dealers in pictures and mosaics. Henceforward the Papal States are to be considered non-existent as an independent power, and to be thought of only as a dependency of France. To avoid the passage through them, and the various delays and inconveniences it details upon persons journeying between the north and south of the Kingdom, the Italian government intends to bring in a bill authorizing the construction of a railway from Florence to Naples, outside of the Roman frontier.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The *Newfoundlander* of the 17th says:—"The Address in reply to the Governor's opening speech passed through Committee in the House of Assembly last evening—third reading to-day. The discussions of the la[...] three or four days were exclusively u[...]on that clause of the Address which af[...]firms the duty of immediate Legislative d[...]ecision, as to the terms on which the Colo[...]ny ought to become a sort of the Union, [...] The Opposition moved an amendmen[t] to the effect that the Quebec Conventio[n] had been already rejected, and that th[e] question be postponed until after next general election The amendment was [e]xecuted as so transparent a fraud deserve[d] to be; and the Confederation clause wa[s] carried by a vote of *eighteen* against *eight* members." The House of Assembly [w]ill go into committee on Monday next on the subject of Union of the Colony with the Dominion of Canada.

LONDON AT MIDNIGHT.—[...] night, nearer twelve o'clock [...]t is, perhaps, at months of winter, that the h[...] during the three London poverty is best seen [...]leous aspect of life has ceased. The shops a[...]. The hum of gin palaces have thrust out [...] are closed. The some to seek shelter under [...] the beastly crowd, parks, others in the niches [...] the benches in the ings, and others still in th[...] of the public buildkets. The only living pers[...]e litter of the mar[...] the streets are the wretched [...]ons that still haunt doorsteps crouch homeless [...] magdalenes. On dust heaps are burrowed [...] children. In the where the main is being m[...]ag-pickers. And, haunts its ragged flames, [...]ended and the gas ing wretches are stretc[...] a crowd of shiverstone and mounds of [...]ned among piles of yard where the "Re[...] earth. In playhouse [...]fuge" gives gratuitously to each of the first six hundred applicants, after Bow Bells has gone midnight, a bed for rest, and a loaf for breakfast, more than twice that number is assembled. The blue, shoeless feet of the children; pale infants on the breasts of half-starved mothers; the wrangling of greedy men and boys for places nearest the bar that guards the door· beggars of every race and calling—the friendless and penniless, the imposter and the unfortunate, the Lascar and the Pole seeking elemosynary shelter and bread with the savage craving of starving wolves—are events as certain to come as midnight.

It is now generally admitted by honest Physicians, that when once the Consumption is fairly fastened upon the lungs, no human power can save the patient from the death. They also say that about fifty per cent. of those who die from this disease can trace the cause to a neglected cough or cold, which might have been cured by a small bottle of Liquid Opodeidoc, or what is the same thing, Johnson's Anodyne Liniment.

"Healing on its wings," say all who have made use of Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, and by such use cured themselves of coughs, colds, and consumption. The prudent will always keep this remedy by them.

PUBLIC MEETING AT LOT 14.

A numerously attended meeting of the inhabitants of the above township was held at the Cross River School House, on Saturday last, 20th inst., the same being called by one of the representatives of the District, Joseph O. Arsenault, Esq., for the purpose of learning the local wants and grievences of that section. The meeting was organized by calling Mr. Roderick McDonald to the chair, and appointing the undersigned secretary.

Mr. Arseneault addressed the meeting. He referred to several important local matters, among other things calling special attention to the necessity of adopting some improved system of keeping our highways in proper repair. He advocated the abolition of the present system of statute labor, and the levying of a moderate tax to be judiciously laid out in keeping the roads in repair. His views about these sensible reforms seemed to be received with general favor by the whole meeting.

Messrs. Murdoch McKinnon, senr., and Donald McLellan, Murdoch McKinnon, Esq., and others, severally addressed the meeting recommending the appointment of a superintendent of Public Works for each County, and that district commissioners should be paid a salary that would warrant them in devoting a sufficient time to the proper discharge of their duties.

After giving a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting adjourned.

NEIL MCKINNON, Sec'y

Lot 14, Feb. 22, 1869.

Very Latest Telegrams.

Ottawa, Feb. 22nd.

It is expected that Parliament will meet about the first week in April. The session will be a short one, not more than six or seven weeks. The estimates will be brought down the first week of the session.

Montreal, Feb. 22.

The Dominion Parliament has been further prorogued until 31st March.

The Gazette of this morning says: "One can hardly find terms strong enough to denounce those who now urge opposition to Mr. Howe, based on purely personal grounds, built up of spite and jealousy, forgetful of their country so their own plates are full, and their own faction served."

The Gazette states that Hennessy & Co. have notified the Intercolonial Commissioners that they will not go on with their contract, on the ground that they made some errors in calculating earth work, and did not feel satisfied with precision of plans in other respects, and the providing of proposed contract.

A recent letter from Charles Muir shows that 5000 Red River settlers will not yet require relief, and calls upon Canadians to render assistance.

London, Feb. 21

The *Standard* regrets the rejection of the Alabama Convention after protracted and laborious negotiations. It says the advances for a new Treaty must come from the United States. England is now unfettered from concessions, and will only treat hereafter on terms of absolute equality.

The Times says that the present treaty has testified the amity of England; its failure does not endanger the friendly relations between the two countries, but will rather serve as a warning in arranging the points of a new convention.

The Post regrets the rejection of the treaty on account of the delay it will ocsion in the restoration of friendly relations between Great Britain and the United States.

New York, Feb. 23.

The following amendment to the Constitution passed the House of Representatives Saturday by a two third vote: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged by any State on account of race, color, nativity, property, creed or previous condition of servitude." It goes to the Senate for concurrence.

Anniversary of Washington's Birth day, and business generally suspended.

Montreal, Feb 23.

Hon. Mr. Rose has gone to Washington in an official capacity, as British Commissioner in the San Juan and Oregon Boundary question. He will be absent about a fortnight.

London, Feb. 23rd.

In the House of Commons to-day, in reply to an enquiry of the O'Connor Don, Mr. Fortescue said that the Government proposed to release from imprisonment 45 Fenians, who were convicted of treason last year in England and Ireland, including several of the leaders.

Baron Lionel De Rotchschild (liberal) has been elected to Parliament from London city, in place of Mr. Bell (conservative).

Costello and Warren, Fenian prisoners, have been set free.

Trieste, Feb. 21.

A terrible disaster occurred yesterday on board the frigate "Radtesky," while cruising on the Adriatic. An explosion took place in the powder magazine, making a complete wreck of the ship, and causing great loss of life. Most of the officers and crew were instantly killed or blown into the water and drowned.

Madrid, Feb. 21.

The iron-clad "Victoria" is under orders to sail for Havana. By a recent decree of the Colonial Minister, all restrictions are removed from the offices of commercial brokers in the islands of Porto Rico.

London, Feb. 22.

Madrid advices state that the Press of the country urge upon the Provisional Government the necessity of preserving the friendship of the United States.

New York, Feb. 22.

The Alabama treaty is likely to be discussed at some length in the Senate, and its consideration will probably be postponed until after the 4th of March.

New York, Feb. 23.

President Johnson has vetoed the tariff Bill on Copper, which recently passed Congress.

Mr. Punshon in the Provinces.

WM. MORLEY PUNSHON has been writing letters to the Editor of the London *Methodist Recorder*, on his tour last summer through the Maritime Provinces. We give below an extract from the "Eighth Series," in which he says:—

"While in the lower provinces, I visited Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The Island, called after the Queen's father, is about 46 miles square, or rather that would be the measurement if it was regularly shaped. It is fertile and healthy, in form something like a crescent, and separated by the Northumberland Strait from the mainland. It was ceded to the British Crown by the Treaty of 1763, and curiously divided, like a good-sized hot cross bun, into lots or sections, which were distributed by lottery amongst officers and others who had claims upon the home Government. These seignorial rights hindered the growth and enterprise of the population for some years, but every effort is now made to develope both their physical and industrial resources. There is a local Legislature, and a Governor, and all the appliances of Government on the Island, and they do not feel disposed to enter into Confederation, having, as they shrewdly say, nothing to gain and little to loose, and actually boasting themselves of their insignificance territorially considered, because they think they offer no temptations to the greed of any covetous neighbor. Charlottetown is a pleasant place, and contains about 7,000 people. Some of the bays are very fine, and the sail to Pictou, in Nova Scotia, especially so. The steamers engaged on these services are built with saloons on deck, after the fashion of the St. Lawrence and Hudson River steamers. For a river service these answer well, but one would hardly think them suitable to traverse stormy seas."

The *Evening Star* is the name of a new daily paper started in Montreal, price "one copper." It is well filled with a great variety of general reading, commercial, financial and news matter. Printed in good clear type, on excellent paper, and its articles cleverly written and admirably arranged, the *Evening Star* bids fair to star on a career of prosperity. second to none in the Dominion. It is outspoken, asks no favors, determines to succeed, and hence has struck from its copy of Worcester, the words "Subserviency," "Fear," and "Failure."

CORRESPONDENCE.

ADDRESS

Of the Members and adherents of the Presbyterian Congregation of Bedeque, to their Pastor. Rev. R. S. Patterson, accompanying a presentation of a Purse containing the sum of $111.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:—

We the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church of Bedeque, beg leave to approach you, Rev. Sir, with feelings of profound respect, while we embrace this opportunity of conveying to you a faint expression of the high esteem in which we, as a congregation, hold you as our pastor.

When we reflect on the great length of time, stretching over a period of more than forty years, during which you have been permitted by the great head of the church, to go in and out among us, ministering to our spiritual necessities; when we remember your fortitude and resignation under afflictions and privations; your untiring and earnest zeal in the cause of the great redeemer; your anxious solicitude for the salvation of immortal souls; the lively interest you have ever manifested in the cause of education; the kind and friendly bearing you have uniformly maintained towards us, as your flock, and your earnest advocacy of every project calculated to elevate or improve the mind; we feel our hearts rise in gratitude to the bountiful giver of all good, who has cast our lot under your ministrations. At the same time we humbly confess that we have not duly appreciated those privileges, or fulfilled our duty toward you in things pertaining to the comforts of this life.

And now Reverend and dear sir, while we congratulate you on the success which has attended your ministry—for we are conscious that your labor has not been in vain in the Lord, and on that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed, you will have many souls for a crown of rejoicing from this portion of the Lord's vineyard—we deeply sympathize with you in the many trials with which it has pleased the Lord to visit you.

Please accept the accompanying purse containing the sum of $111, as a token of the high esteem in which you are held by us, and likewise, convey to your respected partner our sympathies in her afflictions, and we trust that ere long she may be restored to health and usefulness. And that you may be spared yet many years among us to proclaim the glad tidings of the gospel, from this watch tower of zion, and that you may in time to come be eminently instrumental in bringing souls to a knowledge of the truth, as it is in Jesus, and that it may be said of you, as it was of holy Job, that the Lord blessed his latter end more than the beginning, shall be the burden of our supplications to the throne of grace.

Signed on behalf of the Congregation.

THOMAS MONTGOMERY,
THOMAS TOWNSEND,
ALFRED CRAIG,
ANN MONTGOMERY,
ANN TOWNSEND,
MARY WALKER,
JANE CAIRNS,

February 24, 1869,

REPLY.

To *Messrs. Thomas Montgomery, Thomas Townsend, Alfred Craig, Miss Ann Montgomery, Miss Ann Townsend, Miss Mary Walker, and Miss Jane Cairns.*

MY DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS:—

I sincerely thank you for the kind Address, accompanied by a handsome donation, which you, on behalf of the members and adherents of the congregation, of which I have been privileged to have the spiritual charge, have presented to me. I fear I can scarcely lay claim to the high encomiums which you, in your fond partiality, have bestowed upon me. I am sensible of many deficiencies with which you have indulgently borne. As to the donation it is valuable in itself, but incalculably more so, on account of the kind feeling of which it is the proof. The attachment of his people is gratifying to a minister, as it enables him more efficiently to promote their spiritual benefit, which is the earnest desire of every faithful pastor.

It is not on the present occasion alone that my congregation have given me an expression of their kindness. Under a domestic trial which subjected me to heavy expenditure, several individuals in it, unknown to the public, afforded me material pecuniary assistance. Nor has aid come only from my own people. Christian friends of other denominations have shewn their sympathy in the same substantial way, and I take this opportunity of tendering them my thanks.

For forty-three years I have been spared to labor among you. During this lengthened period I have seen many changes. Of the ministers of the Presbytery, I am the only one living of which it consisted when I joined it. Many of those to whom I ministered when I was inducted into this congregation, have closed their earthly career, and a considerable number, I trust, have gone to the better land. A few still remain, bearing the marks of declining years, the feeble step, and the silvered hair. Others have entered upon life and are grown up to mateur years, Instead of the fathers there are the children, and although as many have not been spiritually born as we most earnestly desire to see, yet we trust, that in a goodly number of cases, they are a seed to serve God.

Between few pastors and their people has the connection been so long and so happy. Peace has been within our walls. If there have been, at any time, slight breaches they have been speedily and happily healed. Under the trials, through which it has pleased God to cause me to pass, the undiminished attachment of my congregation, and the kind sympathy of christian friends of other denominations, have been, under God, not the least grounds of support.

Should it please God to spare me to labor for some time longer among you, I trust, that through your prayers, for which I earnestly ask you, and through the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ, it may be to be more zealous in seeking to promote the glory of God and your best interests.

Mrs. Patterson joins me in heartfelt thankfulness to you for the sympathy which you express toward her in her affliction, and the wish for her recovery to health which you cherish. For your sympathy with myself, and the trials with which it has pleased my Heavenly Father to visit me, accept of my unfeigned gratitude.

And now, my dear friends in Christ, that your souls may prosper and be in health; that you may have that ineffable peace which flows from a sense of interest in the divine favor in this world; and that at the great day we may be found at the right hand of Christ, is the sincere wish and earnest prayer of your affectionate pastor.

ROBERT S. PATTERSON.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—At Dog River, on Tuesday last, Mr. Thomas Howard was dreadfully injured by the bursting of the fly-wheel of a Threshing Machine in operation, a fragment of which while whirling through the air, struck Mr. Howard on the breast, crushing it in, and passed over his shoulder, breaking one side of his jaw and dislocating the other, and knocking out two teeth. Yesterday we learned that he was not likely to recover.—*N. Star.*

MARKETS.—This week the country market was better supplied than it was for the previous fortnight. Eggs are looking down, and plenty considering the seasons. Flour was scarce on Friday, but meal and meat as usual. The supply and quantity of pork continue good, and quotations remain firm and unchanged. Oats, which are coming in in small lots; show an upward tendency. There was a good supply of hay in yesterday, and we believe the selling price may be quoted at £3 10.—*Pat.*

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1869.

No notice can be taken of annonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

WE hear a great deal in these days of the relative merits of the denominational and undenominational systems of education. In England the denominational system was established by Government in 1839. It would perhaps be more correct to say that the Government of Great Britain *adopted* that system. Previous to that time the principal schools of England, besides private educational establishments, were either what are called endowed schools or schools for the poor, supported by the subscriptions of living private individuals. The value of the charities or endowed schools is immense. In 1850 it was estimated that the value of those reported on by Government Commission was *seventy-five millions of pounds sterling*, capable under proper management of yielding an income for the purposes of education of four millions of pounds. The number of these charities, great and small, is 28,840. Notwithstanding this liberal provision for the education of the poor, the great mass of the people of England were in a state of the most deplorable ignorance. Chiefly through the exertions of the late Lord Brougham, the state became a subscriber to the voluntary schools already established and to be established in England. Like every other subscriber, the state was anxious to see that the money given by it was not misappropriated. For this purpose a number of School Inspectors were appointed, whose duty it is to see that the government requirements are in every case complied with. It must be remembered that in England in no case does the government take the initiative. It does not seek out those localities in which the means of educating the poor are most defective, and there establish schools, but it merely gives grants in aid of those schools which, by private voluntary effort, are already established, or are in the course of being established. We will here state some of the conditions on which government aid is granted to schools in England, copied from what is called the REVISED CODE, 1867, *of Minutes and Regulations of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education* in England:—

4. The object of the grant is to promote the education of the children belonging to the classes who support themselves by manual labour.

5. The means to consist in aiding voluntary local exertion under certain conditions to establish or maintain schools which are either

(*a*) For the instruction of children (*elementary*); or

(*b*) For training schoolmasters and schoolmistresses (*normal*).

8. Every school aided from the grant must be either

(*a*) A school in connexion with some recognized religious denomination; or

(*b*) A school in which, besides secular instruction, the scriptures are read daily from the authorized version.

15. No annual grant is paid except on a report from the inspector after a periodical visit, showing that the conditions of the grant have been fulfilled.

40. The managers of schools may claim at the end of each year

(*a*) the sum of 4s. per scholar, according to the average number in attendance throughout the year at the *morning and afternoon* meetings not being less than 400 of their school, and 2s. 6d. per scholar according to the average number in attendance throughout the year at the evening meetings not being less than 40 of their school.

(*b*) For every scholar who has attended more than 200 morning or afternoon meetings of their school:

1. If more than six years of age 8s., subject to examination.

2. If under six years of age, and present except in united schools on the day of examination, 6s. 6d. * * *

(*c*) For every scholar who has attended more than 24 evening meetings of their school, 5s., subject to examination.

The above are the main features of the Privy Council system. The first sum granted by Parliament was £20,000; the annual grant is now £800,000. It costs very nearly one-tenth of the whole grant to oversee its proper distribution. Our readers will see that under such a system, those localities which are too poor or too careless to set up schools, are entitled to no share of the grant. Yet these people pay their taxes as well as the others. Suppose the system were in force on this Island. Let us see how it would work in Summerside, for instance. The Roman Catholics would, of course, immediately avail themselves of its privileges, as they have already a denominational school established in this town. The Presbyterians, let us say, would next make an exertion to establish a school of their own; they might or might not be assisted by the other denominations of Protestants. It is not likely that their co-operation would be very hearty or long continued. The Presbyterian school is established and a Presbyterian teacher employed. The Wesleyans, Episcopalians, Baptists and other denominations would be forced, under these circumstances, to send their children either to the Roman Catholic or the Presbyterian school, each being too weak to support a school of its own. These schools, depending mainly for existence on voluntary support, would not, it is probable, be long in a very flourishing condition. In the country places there would be but three courses left for the people to pursue: either to agree to sink their religious differences, establish undenominational schools, or to set up more schools, or the minority would be obliged to suffer their children to remain uneducated, or send them to schools taught and controlled by a religious sect of whose leading distinctive tenets they highly disapprove. The cost of such a system would be very great, and experience has proved that in Great Britain it has not effected the object designed. At the end of 1866 there were in England 14,877, of these 10,404 parishes were not aided by grants. These 10,404 parishes are precisely those which most required government assistance. They are poor, and inhabited chiefly by the "classes who support themselves by manual labor." The consequence, as the reader may readily infer, is that the laboring classes in England are extremely ignorant. "There were in 1850," says Mr. Ross, "nearly 8,000,000 persons who cannot read and write." In London alone, it is stated on excellent authority that there are 150,000 children not under any instruction. "James Cowan, L.L D., of Scotland, in his written evidence to the Royal Commissioners, 1867, remarks: 'The Privy Council system offers advantages only to those who can help themselves, while it leaves those districts which most require assistance wholly unprovided for.' The remark applies with equal force to remote Highland parishes."

A writer in the Edinburgh *Review* says:—"Every plan which has yet been devised for aiding voluntary contributions, for the support of schools from the public purse has been open to one of two fatal objections. It has either provided for a lavish expenditure of the public money on schools which do not want it, to the neglect of those that do; or for the absorption of those local resources which it was intended only to supplement.

"If Government aid continues as at present to be strictly proportioned to local effort, a large contribution from the friends of every school being required to meet a small grant from the state, then only those schools will be helped which, having zealous and opulent friends, could do best without help; friendless places—which are as yet nine-tenths, and will always be a large proportion of the whole—will remain unaided."

We have stated sufficient to show our readers that the Education in England is in by no means a satisfactory condition. The people are not generally educated, and those whom it is the duty of the state to instruct, are left to live and die in ignorance.

Opening of the Legislature.

Yesterday, at 3 o'clock, His Honor the Administrator of the Government, escorted by Capt. Holman's troop of Cavalry, came down to the Colonial Building, where he was received by a guard of honor composed of Capt. Morris's Artillery Company. Having proceeded to the Council Chamber (which was crowded with ladies and gentlemen) the the Members of the House of Assembly were summoned thither, when His Honor opened the present Session with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

In the absence of the Lieutenant Governor, the duty of the Administering the Government having, by Her Majesty's appointment, devolved upon me, it affords me great satisfaction to meet you on this occasion,

Your Address to Her Majesty, adopted in the last Session, on the subject of the payment, by the Colony, of the Lieutenant Governor's Salary, was duly forwarded, but as yet, no answer has been received to it.

The money appropriated by you, in your last Session, to assist the destitute Settlers in the purchase of seed grain, under the grave apprehension that without some such assistance, much land would remain untilled, was judiciously expended, and, no doubt, under God's blessing, has been the means of averting much destitution.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Accounts of the past year and the estimates for the present year will be laid before you. The estimates have been prepared with the view of combining a due regard to economy with the efficiency of the several branches of the Public Service.

The Revenue for 1868 evidences a steady increase in the trade of the Colony, although the expenditure is in excess of the Receipts, caused, in a great measure, by the purchase of Lands and the advances for seed grain, which have as yet been only partially repaid.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

A period of Eight years having elapsed since the last census was taken, I now call your attention to the necessity of adopting measures to renew it.

A measure will be laid before you providing for the appointment of a Board of Works, to take the charge and supervision of the Roads, Bridges, Wharves and Public Buildings of the Colony. By means of such a Board it is believed that the efficiency of the Public Works Service will be much increased and economy greatly promoted. The present system has been found inadequate to the public wants, and unsatisfactory in its results.

In connection with this subject, your attention will be called to the propriety of appropriating a sum of money, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Works, for the purpose of making permanent improvements in the Highways.

Intersected as this Colony is in so many parts by navigable waters, the want of Railroad Communications may, to a certain extent, be remedied by a judicious encouragement of Steam Navigation. I invite your attention to this subject, and feel confident it will receive from you that consideration which its importance demands.

The rapid increase of business in every department of the Public Service demands increased accommodation. The present General Post Office is quite inadequate to the requirements of the service.

The Supreme Court Room, in the Colonial Building, is not sufficient for the purpose and serious inconvenience has been felt from this.

Additional space is required for the Customs and other Public Departments. The Records and Public Securities in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds, and those in the Prothonotary's, Treasurer's and Probate Offices, are not sufficiently protected from accidents by fire.

Impressed with the conviction that no time should be lost in a matter of so much public importance, a measure will be submitted to you to provide for the erection of a Building in Charlottetown, which shall be adapted to meet the different exigencies alluded to, and I recommend this matter to your serious consideration.

Representations have been made to me on the necessity of appointing an additional Judge in the Supreme Court. Papers on this subject will be laid before you, to which I invite your attention.

Telegraphic Communication between this Colony and the Continent has been suspended since August last, in consequence of the breaking of the submarine Cable. Steps have