

Colonial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 1858.

QUALIFICATION OF J. C. POPE, ESQ.

Mr. MURKHEAD rose and stated, That, having, on the first day of the session, in compliance with a petition which had been sent to him, moved a resolution, to the effect that James C. Pope, Esq., should, in compliance with a requirement of the Election Law, lay a Schedule of his Qualification upon the Clerk's table; and his resolution having been carried and complied with, he had afterwards made the necessary investigation in the Register's Office, and found that a certain Deed of Settlement, which, if in force, might have invalidated Mr. Pope's Qualification, had been revoked by him; and as he (Mr. M.) had no further instructions from the Clerk of the House concerning the matter, he presumed that the Clerk ought to be instructed to return, to Mr. Pope, his Title Deeds and other papers which, in compliance with a requirement of the Law, he had laid upon the table.

Ordered accordingly.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY thought it would be necessary for the Clerk of the House to keep a copy of Mr. Pope's revocation.

CONDENSED DEBATE.

House in Committee on the Report of the Special Committee on Expiring Laws: Mr. McDonald in the Chair.

An Act to provide a summary remedy for Females in certain cases of seduction.

Hon. Mr. PALMER.—The propriety of continuing this Act in its present form, admitted of some question; but there was no question, in his mind, respecting the propriety of providing some remedy for the wrong which too often was sustained by females, of whose weakness or confidence, men were found so unprincipled and licentious as basely to take advantage. There was no Bastardy Law, or any other laws in this Colony, such as were in operation in Great Britain and other countries, calculated to afford relief to the injured, and to repress sexual immorality by the infliction of penalties upon evident and notorious offenders against chastity. But where such laws did exist, they were very far from being satisfactory or efficient; and, very often to—as had most certainly been the case here, under the operation of the expiring law then under consideration—they operated rather as an incentive than a discouragement, to the crime which they were intended to repress; and the remedy provided by the law was seldom sought by such females as had been really and truly the victims of seduction; for such naturally shrunk, in their modesty and shame, from the further exposure and publicity which would be consequent upon their putting the law in operation against their callous-hearted and licentious seducers; whilst, on the other hand, females, who were positively rather the seducers than the seduced, and others notorious for their profligacy, and vice of almost every kind, found in the law a bounty or premium provided for their immorality; and came forward, blushing and boldly, to claim compensation for the injuries alleged to have been sustained by them, when in fact, they were much more deserving of punishment for their open and shameless profligacy, than of any compensation for wrong inflicted upon them. So much respecting the unwholesome operation of the Act, was he, in candour, bound to say, although the measure had originated with himself. The question concerning the propriety of its reenactment or continuance, was certainly very perplexing and difficult. Whilst all admitted the propriety of providing some remedy for the injuries sustained by females who had been, in reality, heartlessly deceived, if really they could be in such cases; and whilst all who were influenced by feelings of humanity, saw and admitted the necessity of providing and enforcing, where it was possible, from the fathers, some support for illegitimate children, how shameless and abandoned soever their mothers might be; they were completely at a loss how to devise any measure which, whilst, in its operation, it should afford some relief to the injured, and inflict some penalty on the injurer, should not, at the same time, by an encouragement to women of an abandoned character to practise their meretricious arts upon such thoughtless, unwary, and it might be reckless, individuals of the other sex, as were in such a position or in such circumstances of life, as might warrant their expectation of being able to extract money from them, either through their dread of the exposure which would ensue upon an action sustained in the open Court, or also by positive operation of the law so enforced. The expiring law had also been found to operate, in another way, highly injurious to the morals of the youth of the Colony, through the disgusting disclosures which were frequently made, in open Court, when cases of seduction were being tried therein. It had been found that, on such occasions, the Court was crowded by youths, and others, of depraved appetites or vicious inclinations, whose ears eagerly drank in the offensive and loathsome details which were frequently made, and then went forth, with their corrupt appetites newly whetted, and their evil inclinations more confirmed, to spread more widely the contamination which adhered to themselves, by the frequent relation of the disgusting disclosures which they had heard in Court. For the lessening of this evil, it was supposed some restrictive measure might be devised. To that end, it was proposed, he had heard, to constitute, in each of the Counties, a Bench of Magistrates before whom such cases should be brought, and whose duty it would be to hear and decide thereon, with as much secrecy as should be compatible with a fair hearing of both parties. In justice to the Judges of the Supreme Court, he felt bound to say, that they were not by any means favorable to the reenactment of the law as it then stood; and none could deprecate more than they, the filthy and polluting disclosures which such cases too generally produced in Court. The Judges, however, knew nothing of any such cases but those which were brought under their cognizance in Court; they heard nothing of the numerous cases which were laid before the individual barristers of the Court, some of which were settled through the operation of compensations or conscientious feelings on the part of the offending men, who agreed to make such compensation to the complaining suits as they were willing to receive; and by other male offenders making such offers, as, in all likelihood, they would not make were the present law not in force. The necessity of some such was practically acknowledged in every well governed country; and, should it be determined that the present law bearing upon seduction should not be reenacted on account of the very serious objections which existed to its continuance, in every well regulated mind in the community, it would yet, he apprehended, be positively necessary to enact some other measure in lieu of it, for the just consideration of the cruel wrongs so often sustained by too credulous and confiding women; and the voice of humanity imperatively demanded that some provision should be made for the support of those helpless beings who would, otherwise, be altogether abandoned, not to the care, but to the neglect of the most deeply impoverished and the most ungrateful mothers. But none more than he, would be more anxious, in the framing of any new law upon the subject of seduction, intended to supersede the present one, that it should hold out no inducements to females of loose inclinations, or of open profligacy, for the practice of their deceptive and seductive arts; but yet he would say, that, should such Courts, as he had alluded to, be composed of Benches of Magistrates, be established, it would be necessary, whilst guarding against injuries and demoralizing publicity, to make such legal provisions for the regulation of the proceedings therein, as would afford an equal measure of justice to each party, by allowing each to be heard, both in person and by witnesses. He himself had no alteration to propose in the present law; but he would be very willing to concede full power to hear, investigate, and decide, in cases of seduction, to Magistrates who might be judiciously selected to compose such tribunals as he had alluded to, and so regulated as he had presumed to intimate they ought to be; reserving, at the same time, the right of appeal to the Supreme Court, to either party who might feel aggrieved by the magisterial decision. He might further observe, that he also apprehended if such Courts were established, it would be necessary to recognize, to a certain extent, in the Act intended to constitute them, the principles of the Bastardy Law of England; by which, in each particular case, a Bond was required to be given, by the father of the illegitimate child, that it should not, in its infancy, become a burthen on the community; and, by which Bond, he was bound to make a suitable weekly allowance to the mother for the support of the child. Of this he was certain, that it would be impolitic, unjust, and inhuman, to allow the present Act to expire, without passing some other measures by which provision for the support of the help-

less and unoffending offspring, could be enforced from the father, and not allowing the helpless little beings to be left to the care of heartless and reckless mothers. It was not his wish, more than it could be that of any other member of the House, to inflict, upon the father, greater punishment than should be justified by the wrong which he had done; but common sense and common justice alike demanded that a man should, at the least, be more responsible for the maintenance of a child which had been brought into the world through his gratification of his irregular desires. He knew that, to avoid such disgusting and contaminating disclosures as he had spoken of, the Judges desired the creation, by the Legislature, of magisterial tribunals, before which might be brought for decision, all such cases of either real or alleged seduction, as had, since the passing of the Act under review, been tried in the Supreme Court. The institution of such tribunals, under proper regulations, would, no doubt, to some extent, lessen the publicity which was given to the disgusting details of many such cases, when heard in the Supreme Court; and, in that way it might lessen the provocatives to immorality arising therefrom; but he was certain that, instead of diminishing, it would rather increase the number of those cases; because individuals of prurient desires would be relieved, by the comparative secrecy of such tribunals, from much of the wholesome dread imposed upon them by a trial, open to the public, in the Supreme Court. Almost every day, at least every month, many such cases were laid before the individual members of the Bar; but, numerous as they were, under the existing law, they would, he apprehended, be still more numerous, were private Courts to be established for the hearing of them: there the parties would not be afraid to fight it out, how disgraceful and disgusting soever the details by which the trial might be attended; and, after all, many cases might there terminate in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY.—The Act, well intended, as it had, no doubt, been, on the part of the hon. and learned gentleman with whom it had originated, had certainly, he thought, rather given encouragement to loose women to throw themselves in the way of young men, than operated as a check to immoral intercourse between the sexes. There were, unhappily, in the community, many such female characters as would, merely with a view to the extracting of £20 or £30 from the pocket of a thoughtless young man, or from those of his friends, pursue and beset him with every vicious enticement which they could practice; and when they had succeeded in effectually inveigling and entrapping him, almost any lawyer, no doubt, to whom they might apply would professionally do his best to enable them to extract the coveted plunder from their victims. He perfectly agreed with the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, in all that he had said concerning the immoral consequences resulting from the trial of seduction cases, in the Supreme Court, in Charlottetown; for, on all such occasions, the Court was, in a manner, filled with the disorderly boys and all the worst characters of the town; their inducement to be there, proceeding from nothing but the delight with which they were ready to listen to such disclosures of indecencies, as would be truly disgusting to every mind, even only moderately influenced by feelings of morality and decency; and which could not but be painful to every individual of un-demoralized character who was compelled to listen to them. The best way, he thought, to remedy the chief evil arising from the operation of the Act, would be to provide that affiliation should be made before a duly constituted Bench of Magistrates, giving the Bench authority to bind the father to make a due allowance for the support of his child, but giving nothing at all to the mother. If the father by imputation should deny his paternity of the child, alleging that the mother had sworn falsely against him, and should desire an appeal to the Supreme Court, it should be granted in the usual way. The great evil in the Act was that the pecuniary penalty inflicted upon the father went to the mother of the child. Nothing whatever to go to her, unless it were a moderate allowance during the period of her confinement, for two or three weeks perhaps; the pecuniary penalty now imposed upon the father, would then no longer operate as a bounty to loose characters for the practice of sensual immorality.

Hon. the SPEAKER.—He was certainly not at all inclined to support the existing Act; but, should any measure be brought forward, so conceived as to give reasonable expectation that its operation (should it become law) would not be productive of those gross and glaring evils, which had proceeded from the operation of the expiring Act, and which would at the same time, afford such redress, with respect to cases to which it was intended to apply, as sound policy, justice, and humanity seemed to demand, it should have his concurrence and support. To such Courts as those spoken of by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, if composed of truly intelligent and competent persons, but not appointed indiscriminately from the roll of magistrates, who, as he had sometimes said, were as thick as blackberries throughout the country, might very properly, he thought, be entrusted—under the government and guidance of an Act, all the provisions of which shall be well digested and duly guarded—the hearing investigation, and decision of all such cases as those which had of late come within the scope of the expiring Act. Of such Courts it might very well and easily be made a rule to exclude the public, and to admit none into them but the parties immediately concerned and their witnesses. It was a duty, incumbent upon the Legislature, to devise a measure whereby to do away with the immoral and disgusting disclosures, made, in open Court, under the operation of the Act relating to seduction. It was a fact, of which his position in the Supreme Court, when sitting in Georgetown, enabled him to speak distinctly and positively, that when a seduction case was to be tried, there were two or three hundred persons in Court, whereas, had the cases been only of the ordinary kind, there would not have been more than about twenty or thirty persons congregated to hear them. The same morbid and discreditable curiosity was exhibited, in other countries, not only by the male but, to a very great extent, by the female sex also. Here, however, he felt happy in being able to say, that females, with respect to such exposures of immorality, evinced much more modesty and self-respect; for it was positively difficult to get them into Court, on such occasions, even when their presence was necessary; but were the present legal practice, in the Supreme Court, to be continued with respect to cases of seduction, that sense of modesty and decorum which now withheld them from appearing in Court when such trials were going on, might, perhaps, as the population of the Colony increased, be in a great measure lost; for it was well known that individuals who would hesitate or decline to show themselves amongst a few, where their appearance might injure their reputation, were frequently not so guarded and circumspect when they thought they could shelter themselves from observation in a crowd. When the late Mr. Lowell was a member of the Assembly, he introduced a measure relating to such cases as those to which the Act under their consideration referred; one of its provisions directed the pecuniary penalty, imposed upon the father, to be placed in the hands of two or three magistrates, to be paid or appropriated by them, according to certain directions therein contained; but the whole was so complicated, that it could not be carried into operation. Should such Courts as those which had just been spoke of, be established, the enquiries made therein should be conducted in as secret a manner as could be made compatible with the ends of justice; and should any cases be carried from them by appeal to the Supreme Court, the necessary enquiries, even there, should be prosecuted in the greatest seclusion possible. The acts of immorality which the Act under consideration had been intended to prevent or lessen, had, unfortunately, greatly increased in the country since it came into operation; increased, perhaps, both by a kind of certainty with respect to an award of damages, which reconciled some females to the prospect of the loss of character, and induced others of abandoned lives to seek out individuals of whom they might make a prey; and also by the incitements given by cases of seduction tried in the Supreme Court, to the immodest and licentious disposed who flock to hear their details, and afterwards, delight to repeat them, to the further demoralizing of themselves and of all whom they find willing listeners to their relation of them. Should the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown think proper to prepare an amendment to the expiring Act, in conformity with the views entertained by himself and the Judges, and lay it before the House, he (the Hon. the Speaker) believed it would be readily taken up by them, with a view to render it as just and efficient a measure as possible. It was not then however necessary, he thought to go into details.

Hon. COLONIAL TREASURER.—He was of opinion that it would be best to allow the Act to expire altogether. He had not been present when the discussion upon it commu-

ced, and therefore could not tell what might be the precise views respecting it of some of the hon. members who might already have given expression to them in the Committee. The trials of seduction cases in the Supreme Court, had a direct tendency to increase the number of the youth who eagerly thronged to the Court to hear them; and the minds of mere boys were contaminated by their details. In consequence of the existence of the Act, women whose characters were so bad that they could establish not even the most unimportant fact, by their own evidence, had sought to derive pecuniary advantages from it. He certainly did not wish to prevent the action of the Legislature with respect to such peculiar cases; to remedy; and he was originally intended in some measure to remedy; and he freely admitted that the motives, which had induced the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown to introduce the measure, were highly praiseworthy. Still, however, the fact that, since the Act had come into operation, the deeds which it was intended to prevent had increased a hundred fold, was one which he thought, must be admitted by all to be very discouraging to such legislation.

Mr. Yeo was of opinion that, with respect to some females, the prospect of compensation held out to them, by the Act, had made them more guarded than they would, otherwise have been; and that, as regards others, it had made them much bolder and more calculating than they were before. The fact was that whilst it afforded but little or no compensation to truly unfortunate females who were insidiously wronged and betrayed; it operated with respect both to the less worthy and the most abandoned of the sex, as a premium offered for the encouragement of looseness and immorality. That the fathers of illegitimate children should, if possible, be compelled to make allowances for their maintenance, for a certain number of years, was nothing but just and proper; but that the mothers of such children, should, at the same time, be entitled to receive certain sums of money, as a sort of premium for their immorality, was certainly, in the great majority of cases, very wrong. The hon. member then briefly adverted to the nature and working of the Bastardy Law, in England, by which, he stated that a labouring man was compelled if an illegitimate child was legally fathered upon him to allow 1s or 2s a week, out of his earnings for its support; but he was not compelled to allow or pay anything to the mother, except a small sum, commonly called the lying-in money, which might support her for two or three weeks. And besides, said the hon. member, by the authority of that law, the parish officers had in their power, to cause a woman to be imprisoned when she had a second illegitimate child, if she could give no guarantee that neither she, by a continuance in her immoral practices, nor her child would become burthensome to the parish; and if the father of a duly affiliated child, for whose support it had been ordered, by the authorities, that he should make a certain weekly allowance, failed to make payment of it, he also was liable to imprisonment for the default.

Mr. McNEVIN did not think that the law should be allowed to expire; for although with respect to some females it did not operate as a bounty to immorality; yet, as respected others of more correct principles, who, nevertheless, had unfortunately been seduced, it was beneficial, by affording them a compensation, to which both justice and humanity declared them to be fairly entitled. If it was admitted that the law operated as an incentive to evil in some; it ought, at the same time, to be allowed that it inspired others with an awe which withheld them from the indulgence of irregular desires. He heartily approved of all that had been suggested by hon. members with respect to the establishment of private Courts, wherein all enquiries necessary to be made in all cases of seduction which might be referred to them, might be prosecuted with as much secrecy as possible, and every care be taken to guard against publicity of details. Such enquiries could certainly be quite as well and as fully prosecuted in such private Courts, composed of magistrates judiciously appointed thereto, as in the Supreme Court; and the avoidance of public scandal, through indelicate disclosures, would, thereby, be almost fully ensured; a thing which it would be impossible to attain in the Supreme Court. He could not think that the law ought to be allowed wholly to die; but he did think, that it might easily be greatly amended, by carrying into effect the suggestions which had been so wisely made concerning the establishment of private Courts.

Hon. the SPEAKER then rose and submitted the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That the Act, 15 Vict., cap. 23, intitled "An Act to provide a summary remedy for females in certain cases of Seduction," be continued and amended.

Mr. CLARK. He would certainly much rather that the Act should be allowed to expire, than be continued on the Statute Book in its present form. In its operation, notwithstanding the praiseworthiness of its object, it had certainly increased the evil which it was intended to lessen. The Judges, as had been stated by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, and as he himself had heard one of them say, were so little favorable to the law as it now stood, that they would gladly see it superseded by the establishment of such private Courts as had already, with sufficient fulness for the present occasion, been adverted to by different hon. members. For himself, he would almost rather do anything than consent to the reenactment of the law as it then stood; for, in its operation, it had been found to afford direct encouragement to vice.

Mr. LAMB.—He perfectly agreed with all that had been said, by hon. members, in favor of the institution of private Courts, composed of magistrates judiciously selected, for the hearing and determining of seduction cases. If a measure for the establishment of such Courts, were introduced, and sustained by the majority of the House, it might be passed for a short period to try how it would work; and, if it did not work well, perhaps, at the expiration of that period, a better measure might be devised and enacted in lieu of it.

Mr. DINGWELL.—That the operation of the Act, had been productive of evil rather than good, was, he believed, a fact evident to all; and that fact afforded another evidence confirmatory of the sound sense and truth of the oft repeated saying, that it was impossible to make men moral by the agency of laws. The law was, no doubt, humanely intended, as its title imported, to afford relief to females in certain cases of seduction; but according to the testimony of every hon. member who had spoken in Committee concerning it, it had, in that respect, most signally failed; for, as nearly all knew, it had rather induced females of loose morals, and, at the same time of calculating minds, to throw themselves opportunely in the way of young men, from whom, in case of mishap, they might reasonably expect to draw a sum of money, under the name of 'compensation' for their alleged seduction. He again observed, that nothing but the right moral training of children on the part of parents, could afford anything like a reasonable guarantee that they should, when they grew up, be proof against seductions and temptations to vice; although it was mortifying and painful to be obliged to admit, that, even in many instances, in which that had been most carefully attended to, the expectations of good results had been most lamentably disappointed. The law then under the consideration of the Committee, was intended to apply to adults, to individuals capable of judging and choosing for themselves; and proof sufficient had been afforded, that it had, in no way, acted as a salutary restraint upon evil inclinations, or operated for the benefit of the really injured, who were justly entitled to compensation for the wrong which had been done to them; but that it had positively, on the contrary, afforded encouragement to vice. He would, therefore say, with respect to those for whose benefit the law had been framed and enacted, and also with respect to all whom it directly affected,—they were of age, they were arrived at years of discretion, and were capable of judging and choosing for themselves; and, therefore, if they choose amiss, they ought to abide the consequences, and could have no claim to compensation for injuries which they had rather courted, than avoided.

Hon. D. MONTGOMERY.—He approved of the Resolution, submitted by the hon. the Speaker. The law ought not to be allowed to expire, although it had not produced the good effects which, it had been expected, would result from its operation. Its defects, or wrong working had been manifest by experience; and he thought that by the institution of such Courts as had been recommended, and by other judicious amendments, the Act might yet be made to effect much good. Whether compensation should generally be allowed to females, in such cases as those to which the Act was intended to apply,

might be a question; but, certainly, that could be none respecting the propriety of compelling the father of illegitimate children to make some provision for their support, especially as many mothers of such children were so poor as to be unable to provide for them themselves. Such unfortunate children should not certainly be allowed to perish for want; that ought carefully and positively to be guarded against. He would support the Resolution.

The Resolution of the Hon. the Speaker, as above given was then submitted, and agreed to *nem. con.*

CENTRAL ACADEMY, PUBLISHING OF PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICES, & REVENUE ACTS.

Hon. the Treasurer, severally moved the following Resolutions which were agreed to by the Committee, without any opposition:—

Resolved, That the Act, 15 Vict., cap. 29, intitled an Act to alter and amend an Act, passed in the sixth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intitled an Act to alter and amend the Act for the establishment of an Academy in Charlottetown, be continued.

Resolved, That the Act, 15 Vict., cap. 31, intitled an Act to regulate the publishing of Notices and Advertisements relating to the Public Service, be continued.

Resolved, That the Act, 20 Vict., cap. 1, intitled an Act for raising a Revenue, be continued and amended.

HOUSE RESUMED.

The Resolutions agreed to in Committee of the whole House, as above given, were then reported, by Mr. McDonald, Chairman of the Committee; and the question of concurrence therein being put, by the Hon. the Speaker, it was without any opposition, received and adopted by the House.

The following Committees were then appointed to prepare and bring in Bills, pursuant to the foregoing Resolutions: 1st, Seduction Cases Bill:—

Honbles. E. Palmer, D. Montgomery, and the Colonial Secretary, Messrs. McIntosh and Yeo.

2nd, Central Academy:—Honbles. the Col. Secretary, J. Wightman, and F. Longworth.

3rd, Public Service Notices:—The same as that for the Central Academy Act.

4th, Revenue Act:—The Hon. Col. Treasurer moved the appointment of a Committee; but the matter was allowed to stand over.

PETITIONS PRESENTED THIS DAY.

By the Hon. E. Whelan—A Petition of James Walsh and others praying aid to repair a Road.

By the Hon. the Col. Treasurer—A Petition of divers Inhabitants of Township No. 12, praying aid to complete a Road. Ordered, That the said Petitions do lie on the Table.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 1858.

Hon. E. Whelan presented a Petition from divers Inhabitants of Hillsborough River, praying aid to rebuild a Bridge and improve a Road, leading to the settlement of the Back Farms. The same was received and read. Ordered that the said Petitions do lie on the Table.

MONDAY, FEB. 22, 1858.

Hon. the Col. Secretary presented the Road Correspondent's Accounts, which were received, and ordered to be laid upon the Table.

Hon. the Col. Secretary, from the Committee appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill, pursuant to a Resolution of the House, to continue the Act regulating the publishing of Notices and Advertisements, relating to the Public Service, presented a Bill, which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. the Col. Secretary, from the Committee appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill, to continue the Academy Act, presented a Bill, which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

R. B. IRVING Reporter.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MARCH 8, 1858.

FAMILY COMPACTS.

This *Islander*—evidently conscious that nothing tells more forcibly against a political party than to show that there is a Family Compact connected with it—has recently made the most desperate attempts to convince his readers that a Family Compact exists under the paternity and patronage of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the leader of the present Government. The first link which the astute editor of the *Islander* has discovered in the new Family Compact chain is, that a son-in-law of the Colonial Secretary was fortunate enough to become the successful competitor for the Charlottetown Ferry, (which is not the most lucrative contract in the world), before he was far more successful in winning the Colonial Secretary's second daughter. Mr. Peake, some years ago, conducted a larger ferry—that between Charlottetown and Pictou—and no one ever contended that he had no right to do so, simply because he was a brother-in-law of the then Colonial Secretary; and it would not be difficult to show that Mr. Tremain, late ferryman on the Hillsborough, was intimately connected by family ties with the old Tory Government.

The next link in the chain forged by the editor of the *Islander* is that of the Road Correspondent, who, six or seven years after he was appointed to the office which he so creditably fills, happened to marry another daughter of the Hon. Colonial Secretary! We must infer from the *Islander's* remarks, that it was indispensable to a faithful discharge of his duties for Mr. Ball not to marry Mr. Coles's daughter; or as soon as he did, that he should have resigned his office. According to this view of the case, we must conclude that Mr. Macgowan, who was one of Mr. Ball's predecessors, was a very improper officer, not because he permitted the "truck system" to flourish under his management, like a green bay tree, but because he could trace his connexion with nearly all the officers and members of the old Compact Government!

The only other link in the *Islander's* short chain is that of the Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Assembly, brother-in-law to the Colonial Secretary, who received his present employment, not from Mr. Coles or the Government, but from a majority of the People's Representatives, in recognition of the strong claims which he possessed as a faithful and zealous advocate and ally of the Liberal party. Of course we will be reminded that the late Mr. Solomon Desbrisay, against whom the Liberals never uttered a reproach, was a very improper person to have placed in the office of Sergeant-at-Arms, because all the other offices in the Legislature, and every office under the Government, were monopolized by his family connexions!

But as the *Islander* has a taste for discoursing on the evils likely to arise from the creation of Family Compacts, we shall refresh his memory by references to the names of a more formidable one than any that he is ever likely to discover in the ranks of the Liberal Party; and to show that our statement is neither vague nor shadowy, we shall give as our authority one of the not least important public records of the Colony. In the Journal of the House of Assembly, 23d April, 1841, p. 151, we find that the Government of that day was composed of the following nice little "Family":—

"I. Whereas the Executive Council of this Colony is composed as follows:—
Hon. George Wright, Father-in-law to the Prothonotary, who is Brother to the
Hon. Robert Hodgson, who is Cousin to the
Hon. John Brecken, who is Brother-in-law to the