

THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1847.

THE DELEGATION PETITION.

In our paper of the 21st August, we briefly reviewed a few of the charges contained in the Petition praying Her Majesty not to continue Sir H. V. Huntley in the government of this Island. The little space now at our disposal will not allow us to comment, at any length, on the remaining charges. As the whole document has been already closely canvassed by the people themselves, a few sentences will suffice to dispose of it.

In the sixth clause, the Petitioners complain of the shortness of time allowed for the Election in May last, when the Hon. Mr. Coles was understood to have vacated his seat in the Assembly by his appointment to the Council. Now, the assertion that many of the Electors were disfranchised, in consequence of "the impassable state of the roads and ferrys," is mere moonshine. Few, if any of the electors, were deterred from coming to the hustings, by the bad state of the roads and ferrys. This fact is quite evident from the number of votes polled; besides, were the roads not quite as good for the supporters of Mr. McCallum as they were for those of Mr. Coles? Mr. Coles's friends had an equally good right to make a complaint on this head—for if McCallum's party were disfranchised, they must have been disfranchised too,—but Mr. Coles's friends knew that such a complaint would be false and unreasonable, and could not, with any propriety, prefer it. The canvassers from Charlottetown, who were so indefatigable in their exertions for Mr. McCallum, could gallop their horses through all parts of the District for several days previous to the Election—could send food for cattle and food for slaves to the most distant sections of it—could transport loads of hay, barrels of bread, and casks of rum, to bribe the slavish and the ignorant; and yet we are told that the sure-footed and iron-nerved pioneers of the forest could not endure bad weather and bad roads as easily as the fragile and delicate forms of Charlottetown dandies. The secret is—Mr. James Mc Callum, the nominee and the dupe of the Clique, was thoroughly beaten by fair and manly polling, and any thing in the shape of an objection will do to cover the defeat.—The Governor was not to the smallest extent blameable, on the ground that time was not allowed for the scrutiny: the Sheriff was not bound to make his Writ returnable on the 10th. He was directed, we believe, to have the Election concluded by that time; but he might have allowed the writ to run a month after the specified time, if he had any inclination to do so. It is very well understood, however, that a scrutiny would never have been demanded, had there been time enough to prosecute it.

The seventh clause complains of the late Magisterial appointments. This means, simply, that the Lieutenant Governor did not continue to appoint the friends and nominees of the Clique. The Petition asserts that the gentlemen lately appointed have neither "education nor position in society." It is really amusing to hear parties prate about "education" and "position in society," who, as well as their grandfathers and their great grandfathers before them, never could lay claim to either the one or the other. In point of education, some of the new Magistrates complained of have been perhaps more fortunate than most of their revilers, and quite as capable of discharging their judicial duties as the man who can boast of nothing beyond a shipyard schooling, embellished by scraps of learning gathered from genteel society. The sticklers for "position in society" evidently forget their own lamentable and lowly origin.

In the eighth clause of the Petition the Lieutenant Governor is charged with interfering in Elections—the Petitioners evidently meaning the late Election for the First District of Queen's County, as this is immediately after brought in, and no other being referred to. Now, the Governor offered no interference whatsoever at this Election. The fact of his standing at his own door, when Mr. Coles's procession visited the Government House, was not the smallest interference in the matter. When Mr. Douse—whose name figures at the foot of the circular attached to the Petition—sanctioned the false and silly accusation just alluded to, he appears to have forgotten that he once headed a procession to Government House, after an election, and was the author and abettor of proceedings similar to those he now condemns.—Respecting the illumination, it is a daring lie

to assert that His Excellency caused lights to be placed in his windows. We are well informed there was not time to admit of such a thing being done, nor was there any intention to do it.

The experience of the past month or two furnishes the best refutation that need be given to the ninth clause, which states that signatures were procured to the Petition, got up by the advocates of the Governor, in an "underhanded and improper manner." It is well known that the most open and public means were employed to promote the Petition, and its merits canvassed at public meetings. In short, the whole document taken to England by Messrs. Palmer and Pope, is a miserably-constructed chain of falsehoods from beginning to end—creditable to neither the heads nor the hearts of its projectors; for had they never attempted a piece of fictitious writing such as this Petition, we should not have known how poor and sterile are their intellects.

COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

It will be long in this Island before Commerce can make itself independent of Agriculture: that it has become so, and may continue so, in a state of peace in the mother country, is now tolerably evident. But there manufactures enable the population to find a support as long as those manufactures can be exported. We have not, nor can we have any extensive manufactures. Our merchants, therefore, must look to the farmers as their consumers; and as the landlords generally will not export farming produce, the farmers must depend on the merchants to do it for them. Thus mutual interests ought to bind all parties together in one fraternal bond; but this bond should be one of perfect equality, which it never can be, unless the farmer is able and careful to keep himself out of the books of the merchant, for the moment he fails to do so he is at once his slave,—he is obliged to submit not only to such price as the buyer shall fix for his produce, but to pay the store whatever price is demanded for the articles he may want,—and thus his purse is leaking at both ends. But a greater evil than this is, that he will receive the orders of his creditor as to how he shall use his political rights; and though we have amongst us merchants enough in town who have not bowed the knee to Baal—(that is, the Compact)—yet the general result of this has been heretofore, that the Elections have been, to an unfair and mischievous extent, in the hands of Charlottetown traders and shopkeepers, who, in turn, have their masters who practise similar means in their efforts to rule the roast, and to swamp any Government they cannot controul.

We trust the time is not far distant when the farming population will make an effort to emancipate themselves from the slavery to which the evil system we have briefly described is every day subjecting them; and the experience of the past will surely teach them, this effort they must make, if they would enjoy the full value of their labours and the full measure of their political rights.

A BANK.

Amongst the difficulties which monopoly has thrown in the way of the rising fortunes of this Island, probably none has been so great as the want of a Bank, the conductors of which would deal fairly with the people. That the attempt some time ago made to establish one was sincere and bona fide, we are very much inclined to doubt. As long as exorbitant rates of discount are attainable from parties who require temporary assistance and whose credit is good, we shall never see a Bank established. The want of one is one of the greatest evils of the present domination; nor need the public expect, till that domination is overthrown by their united efforts, that that want will be supplied. No! the public and open transaction of a Bank would be far less profitable to the dominant few than the management of private stiles for the contraband trade in money transactions.

Let the people look to it. That money accommodation will be wanted, both in commercial and agricultural business, every one knows; and we hope to see it supplied through the medium of a Bank. We cannot think it all necessary for the Bank of British North America to wait for shares being taken in Charlottetown,—the establishment of a Branch could not fail to be profitable to the Company and a benefit to the Island. But it will be long enough before it comes, if it

is supposed that its advent is wished for by our discounters, however they may at times coquet with the subject. Perhaps nowhere in the commercial or agricultural world is the relative credit of every inhabitant better known than it is in this community,—there is the whole business in Bills, and the credit of every drawer may be safely ascertained,—there is the registry, and the value of every landed security is known,—the value of nearly every stock in Town may be guessed at on reference to the Custom-house books,—there are the ships insured on the stocks, and the security in their bottoms open to the enterprise, at little risk, of any Banking Company; while its establishment would fix every species of money accommodation at a fair and equal price; and in the profit deriveable from all such things there might be a more general participation.

"ONLY LOOK AT THE JOURNALS."—In the Debate of the Malpeque Meeting, which we publish on our first page, the reader cannot fail to mark the pertinacity of Mr. D. Montgomery, in ringing the changes on the above-written phrase. "Only look at the Journals." We have looked at them, friend Donald, and regret to say, have found you voting frequently with that party, whom you modestly aver have coalesced with you. As no person was found generous enough at the Malpeque meeting to comply with your mandate, we shall request our readers to follow us in a reperusal of the Journals; and then we shall know whether Mr. D. Montgomery acted with the true liberal party, or, to use a common phrase, "the loose fish."

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Steamer "Conqueror" brought over the English Mail from Pictou on Thursday evening last. We have given in this No. the most interesting items of intelligence which the latest papers afford. English Journals are still pretty generally engaged in canvassing the late Election contests, and the political principles of the newly returned members. All the returns have not yet been made; but it is now well ascertained, that the new Parliament, though apparently of a strangely miscellaneous character, will be decidedly favourable to the Russell Ministry.

In the selections we give, the reader will find many important matters, on which we have not leisure to comment.

OUTRAGE AND ASSAULT.

On Wednesday evening last a violent assault was committed by a young man named Peter Smith on the person of one James Hughes, a Truckman, by stabbing him in the chest with a knife—the blade penetrating to the lungs, and nearly giving a mortal wound. The circumstances which led to this inhuman assault have been related to us as follow. Another truckman named Charles McKenna was, on the same evening, endeavouring to protect his wife against an insult offered to her in the street by Smith, when one or two more parties came forward to assist the latter in beating McKenna, whereupon McKenna was compelled to run, and having reached the house of Hughes, called him out to his assistance. Hughes came and immediately attacked Smith, but before many minutes elapsed Smith drew his knife and plunged it into the breast of his new adversary. Smith is now in Jail, and we are glad to learn some hope is entertained of the recovery of Hughes. We forbear any comment, as the whole affair shall come before the proper judicial tribunal.

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE FIVE MILE HOUSE.

Our readers will, no doubt, remember that a public meeting of the Electors of the First and Second Districts of Queen's County, has been notified to take place at the Five Mile House, St. Peter's Road, on Tuesday next. The Electors who call the meeting have, with great generosity, consulted the convenience of the advocates and friends of Messrs. Collard & Pope; and we really hope they will go forward and explain what particular examples of wisdom, morality and statesmanship have been given by those two "learned gentlemen" in the whole course of their lives,—it is to be hoped the parties we allude to, since they profess to admire the open and the manly course, will bring their arguments to convince the public that one of their leaders would not, if permitted to controul the Government, be the tyrant he has always been—and the other, the miserable living-lie on virtue and humanity.