## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

### DISTRESS FOR RENT.

Mr. PALMER said, that this Bill proposes to make great alterations in the Law of distraint for Rent, though it is not long since it had undergone an alteration to extend the time; it is proposed to allow six months to expire after the seizure, before a sale can take place. In England five days only are allowed: there are thousands of leases that state thirty days, it will go to interfere with those, it will interfere with all the leases in the country, it goes a very great length, and he did not think it just by any means,—suppose an individual gives his note of hand payable at a fixed time, would it not be extraordinary if he was not compelled to pay until six months after it became due: but one is quite as reasonable as the other. If this Bill becomes law, it will have the effect of disarranging the existing agreements between Landlord and Tenant; it is not in accordance with any laws in any other country, and he must oppose it.

Mr. RAE; as the Bill is only to relieve the Tenantry in a small degree, as it is only an half and half measure he was sorry the hon. member would not go with it, particularly as the resolutions prepared by the honourable member go much farther than this; he thinks the tenants themselves had better petition; if we may judge from this, it plainly shews what we have to expect, if this small boon is not to be allowed; he had reasonable grounds for thinking that our expectations of the good to arise from the Squatters' Bill will be sadly disappointed; I must acknowledge, I have now very little hope of a remedy for the distress of the country, it is this that makes them break their bargains.

Mr. THORNTON would support the Bill's going into Committee, and we could then go into its details, he must say he did not think 30 days a sufficient time in the winter, it would be more reasonable in the summer; it is well known, a great depreciation of a farmer's live stock occurs in the winter, it is then worth next to nothing.

Mr. COLES quite agreed with what had fallen from the hon. member who had just spoken; it was not worth one fourth in the winter season.

Mr. COOPER was of opinion, this measure if carried would be a benefit to both landlord and tenant; that which suits other countries, cannot possibly apply to this; our seasons are different, leaving out other matters; let it go into Committee and it can be amended.

Mr. PALMER, in reply to what had fallen from the hon. member; he seems to make it an object of relief to the Tenant to break the agreements they had entered into, yet he does not attempt to deny the legality of the leases; this will change the conditions agreed upon throughout the Island, and contracts will be rendered useless.—If it is to revive the Escheat question, why not call it by its right name; he would not say the fees that were now charged did not require revision; he thought an alteration was called for, so far as that went, but he thought the principles of the Bill approached those extreme measures that had so often been mooted by certain hon. members though ineffectually; he had gone with them to endeavour to relieve the tenantry, almost beyond what he considered to be just to the proprietors. We may yet do some good if we keep in a constitutional path, but we shall not if we attempt extreme measures. He hoped not to see this House brought into the disrepute that the last obtained, and he could not give a silent vote to a Bill of this tendency.

Mr. MACINTOSH doubted the legality of the contracts, but be this as it may, it was found out the conditions could not be complied with; he did not consider they were worth one farthing, and under the present law, what did a landlord get by distraining? the expences attending it generally swallowed up the whole that was found on a man's farm.

Mr. MACAULAY observed, surely the hon. member who last spoke, will not contend that a lease is not a lease, or that a covenant is not a covenant; and he had not heard any one yet say that the leases had caused the existing distress of the country; it must be acknowledged to do away with the great fees attending a distraint, and giving a much longer time after a seizure, to get the money together, must be some relief to the tenantry. He does not see the danger in this Bill, that the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer) considers will arise.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, Mr. Coles in the Chair—and after a rather long debate, in which most of the Committee took part, particularly the hon. the Speaker, Messrs. Palmer, Cooper and Rae, who were most conspicuous, it was finally agreed to, with amendments.

### TUESDAY, March 14.

Mr. D. Maclean presented a Petition from a number of the Inhabitants of Rustico, and its vicinity; setting forth the serious hardships that are sustained from the unjust oppression of tyrannizing landlords, the cruelty of agents, and the impracticability of paying the enormous rents and arrears of rent which are being extorted, and which they are so unjustly compelled to pay; that they cannot conceive the reason why equal justice should not be administered to them as well as in the neighbouring Provinces. That they are encouraged by Sir Robert Peel's declaration, that the laws ought to change to suit the condition of the people, as well as Lord John Russell's despatch, declaring that contract null and void when there is no possibility of its being performed. That the unfeeling manner with which every enactment made by the last House of Assembly respecting rents was treated by the Legislative Council; the relentless and oppressive measures resorted to by those claiming rents and their agents, together with the depression of trade and the impracticability of raising money, with many other evils which might be enumerated, call loudly for redress—and praying the House to take their case into consideration, and to cause such proceedings to be adopted, to alleviate the evils so justly complained of, as they in their wisdom may deem meet; but should their endeavours prove ineffectual, that they will be pleased to supplicate Her most gracious Majesty to cause this unfortunate Colony to be annexed to Nova Scotia or some other neighbouring Colony.

Referred to the Committee on the State of the Colony.

The Bill to alter and amend the Acts relating to the Steam Navigation Company, was read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The clause repealing that part of the former Act which provides that the Steamboat shall touch at Georgetown once a fortnight was agreed to without a division; as also the clause authorizing the Commissioners for managing the shares held by the Government in the said Company, to buy in the shares held at Georgetown, paying the holders interest on the money advanced by them at the rate of four per cent; and also authorizing the said Commissioners to purchase the twenty-nine shares remaining unsold in the said Company.

On the Clause providing that the dividends on the Government shares shall be formed into an accumulating fund, to be applied towards the purchase of an additional Steamboat, of from 30 to 50 horsepower, to be employed under the directions of the Steam Boat Company, a division took place, 14 voting for the clause, and Messrs. Cooper, Dingwell, Macintosh, D.Macdonald, Beairsto and Fraser against it.

On the House resuming, the amendments were agreed to, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed.

The Bill to provide a mode of compensation for parties whose lands have been flooded by the rising of the water in Mill Dams, was read a second time and committed. The Committee rose without reporting—so the Bill was lost.

Mr. Fraser, after alluding to the very irregular attendance of members, and the consequent delay of public business, brought forward a motion, of which he had previously given notice, that in future the Journals shall be read each morning at half-past ten o'clock, immediately previous to which the roll shall be called over, and any member not then in his place, or retiring without permission from the chair, shall forfeit one day's pay. The rule, he remarked, had been formerly adopted in Nova Scotia, and he thought it was much called for here.—The motion, however, was so coldly received, that the hon. member thought proper to withdraw it. Indeed, we believe, it was not even seconded.

### WEDNESDAY, March 15.

Mr. Dingwell presented a petition, signed by 330 of the agriculturists of King's County, stating the inability of the Tenantry to pay a money rent, and praying that measures may be adopted for their relief. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Colony.

The House went into Committee on the Bill to continue and amend the Act for the encouragement of sailing packets between Georgetown and Pictou, and between Bedeque and Shediac. The allowance for the Bedeque packet continues as formerly, at £30 per annum; while that for the Georgetown packet has been increased from £50 to £70. The additional £20 was only carried by a majority of one.

Mr. Longworth, from the Committee appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill to amend the Academy Act, reported a Bill, as prepared by the Committee. Second reading on the 22d inst.,

The Bill to alter and amend the Acts relating to the Steam Navigation Company was read the third time, and passed—Yeas, 12; Nays, Messrs. Fraser, D. Macdonald, Cooper, Dingwell, Macintosh, 5.

Several Bills were forwarded a stage; after which the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, when several votes to paupers were agreed to. The claims of the following persons were rejected, viz: Margaret Campbell, John Austin, William Holmes, Alexander Munn, Elfrida Whelan, Mrs. Ann Le Page, Adelaide Murphy, Phillip Cooley

### THURSDAY, March 16.

Mr. COOPER, in adverting to the state of the Colony, said, it would be necessary to obtain direct information previous to the subject being again taken up by the House. A circumstance had lately come to his knowledge, where a man, his wife, and, he believed, ten children, were turned out of house and home upon the mercy of the charitable, even now, at this inclement season. The sufferings of this wretched family had been truly deplorable. Was not enquiry into such a state of things rendered highly necessary? It was far worse than sending a man to jail for debt, for then the creditor must support the debtor; but these proprietors exercise their cruelty without a thought of what becomes of the ejected poor creatures thereafter, who have no poor laws to resort to; no relieving officer to whom they could state their destitution, and who would be bound to relieve their wants, as by law compelled to do in England. Surely the conduct of those who inflict such severity should be investigated before a Committee of this House. The perpetrators of such enormities ought to be compelled to provide for those who have improved their property, or send them home where there are poor laws to protect them from actual starvation. He concluded, by moving that the Rule requiring previous notice be suspended; and that a Special Committee be appointed, to inquire into the proceedings of the Solicitor General, taken against the Tenantry and Squatters, in his capacity of Land Agent; and also into the manner in which the Agents of Mr. David Stewart are settling the inhabitants upon the lands claimed by him—with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Mr. DOUSE assured the House he would not oppose the motion. In the case alluded to, he believed there had been a regular course of proceeding by ejectment. Let the inquiry, however, be extended; let the whole of the agents be examined; he did not dread inquiry into his conduct as an agent. Let it be confined to facts; and if cruelties and unjustifiable means have been resorted to, let us see who are the guilty parties—then the saddle will be put on the right horse. He would go hand and heart in any well-advised measure that would tend to the good of the country; but such doctrine as a proprietor being compelled to support an ejected tenant, whose conduct probably had caused it, he must confess the equity of such a measure he could not comprehend.

Mr. THORNTON would give his support to the motion of the hon. member for King's County. He also agreed with what had fallen from the hon. member (Mr. Douse) of making it more general, as a means towards discovering who are in reality the guilty parties. The innocent should not suffer for the latter individuals. If the motion is agreed to, we may be enabled to place the burden on the shoulders of those who ought to bear it.

Mr. YEO's observations tended to exculpate Mr. Stewart's agents. He thought the Tenants on Lot 30 had little, if any, cause to complain. The Hon. the Solicitor General had also advertised to receive produce in payment of rent, at a price that could not be made of it in the market. He (Mr. Yeo) thought he could give the House as correct an account as could be gathered by an examination of those gentlemen, and what result was expected from such a course, he was at a loss to understand.

Mr. RAE did not like to remodel another member's work; yet he wished Mr. Stewart had been left out of the motion. The agent for that property, he believed, was as lenient as could be expected. He had heard there was some mismanagement on this property, but he was ignorant of any thing further than this. The remainder of the hon. member's remarks tended to show the impracticability of examining such a mass of evidence this Session, as some hon. members wished to be carried out.

Mr. COLES said he thought that the agents were more culpable than the proprietors; the latter, he feared, got but very little after the agents were satisfied. "In fact," said the hon. member, "I think it would be attended with good results if lawyers as agents, were disqualified from acting in such capacity." He thought other persons more fit, and had no doubt the exchange would be attended with great benefit to both landlord and tenant. As to including Mr. Morpeth in the examination, no cause existed to render that course necessary.

The Hon. J. S. MACDONALD was quite of a different opinion from the hon. member who had just resumed his seat, so far as to the exclusion of Mr. Morpeth. From information he (M. J. S. M'D.) possessed, the tenantry on that estate, after meeting the agents by agreement, had been induced to sign some documents, of the nature of which they were ignorant, and had got neither leases nor any thing else in return. He should like to see this point cleared up.

Mr. HUDSON knew something of Lot 30, and he would now take the opportunity to state to the House, that as late as last year, families had squatted thereon, and commenced clearing the land and erecting huts. The agent, however, made his appearance, and threatened to turn them off unless they immediately agreed to his terms. In consequence of this proceeding, the advice of the Attorney General was taken, who advised them that it would not be safe to proceed in their improvements, the land in question still being in dispute—the effect of which had caused several to leave the lot on which they had squatted.

Mr. DOUSE rose to correct the hon. member who had last spoken in respect to Lot 30. He could assure the House Mr. Stewart had been put into possession of that property; it had been decided in London by arbitration in his favor. Some of those who had squatted thereon, were worthless characters; he (Mr. Douse) would not have them on any terms.

Mr. YEO must differ with the hon. member, (Mr. Coles), as to the propriety of private persons being better qualified than solicitors to perform the duties of agents. He (Mr. Yeo) knew leases drawn up by the former, who charged more for such than the Lawyers were in the habit of charging. In his opinion the hon. the Solicitor General seems to be quite a god-send to some hon. members; in fact he knew not what they would have found to talk about was it not for the hon. gentleman's *unproved cruelty*. But were hon. members ignorant of the fact, that this very same individual now holds, and has held for the last 18 months, Bonds and other securities, not one of which has he made use of, nor has he exacted even his fees for the preparation of such instruments. Let the truth come out, said the hon. member, and let every tub stand upon its own bottom.

Mr. LONGWORTH was at a loss to understand why selection was made of the Hon. the Solicitor General as the object of attack; such a course he considered unjust and unmerited. He did not doubt but that the hon. gentleman would pass through the fire without being much scorched.

Mr. D. MACLEAN mentioned a case where an individual had been turned out of his farm at the great age of 70 years. The hon. the Solicitor General's conduct was the sole cause of the people's assembling together to petition the House of Assembly. Surely there must have been a propelling power, or they would not have put themselves to such inconvenience. Great excitement prevailed, and he considered inquiry ought to be gone into, so far as relates to the Solicitor General; but he did not see the necessity of examining those against whom we have heard no complaint.

Mr. THORNTON entertained no doubt but that the hon gentleman whose name had been so unceremoniously used in this House, of late, will be happy to explain his conduct—and the sooner an opportunity is given the better. We shall then see how far he deserves the epithets lavished upon his reputation. He (Mr. Thornton) was also inclined to give Mr. Morpeth a hearing, he having, already, out of doors, denied what had been said of him in this House; for as soon as it came to his knowledge that people had taken possession on Lot 30, he had insisted on their removing. The hon. member here said he had understood the Solicitor General was in the habit of carrying fire arms. This he regretted to hear, and if founded on fact, it was apparently making an unusual and he must think an unnecessary display of such weapons. He did not scruple to say it was highly censurable, and unless that gentleman could show good reasons for doing so, he was highly blameable, particularly being one of the principal Crown Officers of the Colony, and he thought it was a fit subject to be investigated by a special Committee.

Mr. WIGHTMAN said that good effects were already manifesting themselves, in consequence of the discussions that had taken place in this House, as several of the Proprietors' agents now offered to take produce instead of cash for rent. He (Mr. Wightman) had known of several persons having had to leave this Island through the oppression of agents, and he would wish the House to go into the enquiry.

The motion was then agreed to, and a Committee appointed, composed of Messrs, Cooper, D. Maclean, D. Macdonald, Douse, Thornton, J. S. Macdonald, Macintosh, Rae and Longworth.

### MONDAY, March 20.

### REPORT ON THE INDIAN PETITION.

The Hon J. S. MACDONALD, from the Committee to whom was referred the Memorial of THOMAS IRWIN, praying for aid to enable him to publish an elementary book in the Mickmac Language, for the purpose of conveying instruction to the Indians of that tribe, presented the Report of the Committee, which is as follows:—

"Your Committee have to report, that they have examined the work prepared by Mr. Irwin, upon which, in the opinion of your Committee, he must have bestowed considerable mental labour; but, from their ignorance of the language in which it is written, they are incompetent to judge of its merits. The members of the Board of Education also say, in their Certificate, accompanying the Petition, that the form of the work is well calculated for the purpose intended; yet of its merits respecting the Mickmac language, they are not qualified to express an opinion. And the Right Rev. B. D. Macdonald, Bishop of Charlottetown, states, in his Certificate, also accompanying the said Petition, that 'the Manuscripts which Mr. Irwin has laid before the Board of Education have been written by persons who were competent masters of the Mickmac Language, and if printed, would serve as an elementary book to instruct and convey sound and moral education to the hitherto too-much neglected Mickmac Tribe.'

"Your Committee have also examined Mr. Irwin, the compiler, who states, that if his manuscripts were printed, he would willingly devote twelve months gratis to the instruction of the Indians; and he feels convinced, from his experience of their aptitude to learn, that in the course of that period he would be enabled to convey such instruction to some of them as to render them competent to teach others. He also states, that in his opinion, the cost of publishing a sufficient number of copies of the manuscripts, for the use of the Indians of this Colony, would be about £100; but from the uncertainty they labour under, as to the merits of the work in question, and also from the very limited number of Indians that usually reside on this Island, they deem it at present inexpedient to recommend the printing of a work, the utility of which, for the reasons above stated, may appear doubtful, and particularly as it has been intimated to your Committee that books of a similar nature have been printed in the neighbouring Provinces; but they have no means at present of ascertaining the truth of such statements; but should such prove to be the case, then books of the nature required might be obtained at a much less expense than the publishing of Mr. Irwin's work would cost the Colony.

"Your Committee would therefore recommend, that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, respectfully requesting that he would be pleased to cause enquiry to be made of the Commissioner on Indian affairs in Nova Scotia, as to whether books of the nature alluded to are to be procured in that Colony or not; and that a sum of money be placed at His Excellency's disposal, to purchase such books, if obtainable, and adapted for the instruction of the Mickmac tribe: and in the event of such Books not being extant, to grant the sum of Pounds, to defray Mr. Irwin's expenses to Halifax, for the purpose of enabling him to submit the work, if he should be so inclined, to the said Commissioner, and if approved of by him, that His Excellency be requested to contribute a sum out of the moneys placed at his disposal towards the publication of the work in question."

A motion being made, that the Report be adopted by the House;

Mr. MACAULAY said, that though one of the Committee to which this Petition was referred, he would oppose the reception of this report, as he did in Committee, on the ground that as we were not judges of the work, we could not give an opinion on it. It was the custom of men of genius and talent to submit their works to the inspection of those publishers who were judges in such matters. This he thought was not done in the present instance; he (Mr. Macaulay) would say that the petitioner should be allowed to act independently of this House, and to do as he may think proper with his compilation. For his part, he could not see the utility of cultivating a barren language, from the knowledge of which there is no prospect of any benefit. He therefore saw no reason why the public money should be expended to serve no useful end. He did not see the utility of granting a sum of money, as recommended in the Report, to enable the petitioner to have his manuscripts tested in Nova Scotia, since they could be expected to know no more of the matter in Nova Scotia than we do ourselves. He therefore thought it useless to occupy the time of the House further with its consideration.

Mr. YEO was surprised that the Indians did not petition the House themselves, if they were so anxious to be educated, particularly in these petitioning times. He had enquired of several Indians respecting this petition, and they all declared they knew nothing of it; and they authorized him to inform the House that they knew nothing about it; and it must be solely for the purpose of benefiting the petitioner alone, and not the Indians, that the petition was got up.

The Hon. J. S. MACDONALD was surprised at the conduct of the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Macaulay). In committee, he expressed no opposition to the Report; but whatever has induced him to alter his opinion, he now opposes it. Another hon. member (Mr. Yeo) said he wondered they had not petitioned themselves. The reason of this was obvious—they did not know how, unless some person like the petitioner would undertake to do so. The Indians, in their present state, know not the benefit education would be to them, and this may account for their carelessness. Let us teach them first in their own language, and then, if they choose, they may learn what they please afterwards. He was surprised to hear what had fallen from the hon. gentleman who first spoke (Mr. Macaulay); he had unhesitatingly passed judgment, though, at the same time, he acknowledged his ignorance of the language. How then is he capable of judging of its merits? Would the hon. member like that he (the Hon. J. S. M'D.) should condemn the Gælic language so unceremoniously? He certainly would not.

Mr. COOPER thought the Report was well guarded in its wording from any abuse, and thought that the suspicions of the member for Georgetown were without foundation. He (Mr. Cooper) approved of the Report. If the work turned out to be as it was represented to be, it may be of equal benefit to the Indians of Nova Scotia as to those of this Island; and in that case, the Government of that Province, no doubt, would join ours in the expense of its publication. He coincided in opinion with the hon. gentleman who had just sat down (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), that the Indians should be first taught in their own language, which would act as a stimulus, to incite them to learn other and more extensive systems of education; and nothing could be a more proper incentive to this than to see portions of their own language in print; and he considered that the least we could do, even if it were only for an experiment, was to make a small grant, as expressed in the Report, to enable the petitioner to obtain an examination of his manuscript in Nova Scotia.

Mr. PALMER said he had already expressed his opinion on this subject. He did not doubt the competency of the petitioner to instruct those people in their own language; and he was fully sensible of the pains he has been at, and the zeal he has displayed, to ameliorate the condition of the Indians; but the question is, is it expedient to teach them in this language? In his opinion it would not be politic to do so: there are but few of the tribe resident on the Island, and these are fast declining away; hence he did not see the utility of cultivating a language that would soon be ranked among the dead languages; and even if such a work as the present was provided, he questioned the utility it would be of to themselves or to society in general. The language of this tribe is somewhat different from that spoken in Nova Scotia, which also differs from that of New Brunswick and Canada, and therefore the work would be very limited in its utility. If any thing could be proposed for their benefit, he thought they should be induced to cultivate the soil, and if they were to be educated at all, he thought they should be educated in English, if we wished to confer a benefit on them. In the ordinary schools they would have an opportunity of learning what would be useful to them. He would oppose the Report in its present form.

Mr. D. MACLEAN said he did not know whether the present work would be of any utility, in an educational point of view; but he conceived it would be a work which would be hailed by the literary world with interest, and will, in all probability, hereafter be reckoned of more importance by philologists than we can at the present time well imagine. The American Indians are rapidly vanishing from the face of the earth before the higher energies of the Caucasian race, and in a few centuries will, perhaps, entirely disappear; and were works of a similar nature to the present one generally produced by individuals acquainted with the various languages or dialects of the Indian tribes, it is far from unlikely that their radical affinity would be resolved. He would, therefore, support a small grant in aid of the publication of the work, as he thought every attempt of this nature should be encouraged.

Mr. MACINTOSH said the Indians in Nova Scotia and here were of the same tribe; and he was convinced, if they saw their language committed to print, they would be induced to learn. Some hon. members assert, that they are degenerating; but he could assure such hon gentlemen that if they were suffered to wander unprotected and uninstructed through the wilderness, like the Indians, they might perhaps shew more of the barbarian than they. The Indians contribute towards the revenue, and they were as well entitled to the benefit of education as any other class of the community. He was not ashamed of legislating for their benefit. He would therefore support the reception of the Report.

Mr. RAE observed that there was not sufficient light thrown on this subject to enable him to form a correct judgment on the matter; but he was not surprised at that, since there were so many strange matters occasionally occurring in our legislation, and he considered this one of them. In his opinion the Indians cared very little about learning or books—so little, he thought, that if you lay down 500 Indian Dictionaries and Grammars, and 50 duck guns, it was very evident which would be chosen by the Indians. They are a peculiar people, who have hitherto baffled every effort of the philanthropist to induce them to adopt the customs of civilized life. It would appear that they had served the purpose or design of their creation, and now they are going off the stage, to make room for others. The Negroes, the Hottentots—both inferior to the American Indian—have been more or less received within the pale of civilized life; but the American Indians cannot be brought to bear the yoke of our customs. If the Indians wished to be taught, let them apply to some of our common schools, and he would have no objection to remunerate the master of such common school for his trouble; and as the Petitioner was most fit to teach English to the Indians, let him begin. If the House consented to publish this work, where could any person be found to teach it, except the petitioner? and if any thing should happen to him, it was so much money lost. He would, therefore, oppose the report.

Mr. DOUSE would very much like to see something done for the Indians. Indeed it was a shame that something was not done for them. Hon. members should bear in mind that they have very great claims upon this House. We have taken their land from them, and given them nothing for it. They contribute to the revenue as much as other classes of the community, and are, therefore, as well entitled to the benefit of education as others; but he was no judge as to whether it would be better to teach them in their own or in the English language. As to what fell from the hon. member (Mr. Rae) about their preferring rifles to books, he (Mr. Douse) would ask that hon. member, if 50 of the best books on any subject, and *one* on *Escheat*, were placed before him, who would be at a loss to guess which he would choose? For his (Mr. Douse's) part, he knew well which he would choose; but he would say, the education of the Indians was of more importance, and would be productive of more good than the whole of the escheat questions that had been brought before this House. These poor people were deprived of their rightful inheritance, and common justice dictates that some endeavour should be made to ameliorate their present state of ignorance and destitution. He would go any length to promote their education.

Mr. D. MACDONALD heartily concurred in the Report of the Special Committee. He was sorry the Committee had not examined the Indian Commissioners in this Colony. Perhaps they were in correspondence with those in the neighbouring Colony, and their information might throw some light on the subject. As it was, he thought that the House could not do less than vote this trifling sum, to enable the compiler to lay his manuscript before the Commissioners in Nova Scotia.

Mr. COLES considered that to teach them in the English language would be the most suitable. All our transactions are conducted in the English language. As to the Indians themselves, he had had several transactions with them, and found them a shrewd, acute people in all their dealings. He would prefer to printing the manuscripts, to vote a certain sum to enable the petitioner to instruct them in English. This he considered preferable to adopting the Report.

Mr. MONTGOMERY did not see the benefit the Indians would derive, if these manuscripts were published. He thought they should be taught in English, as the best means of conveying instruction to them.

*(To be concluded in our next)*

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GREAT STORM IN THE BLACK SEA.—According to a Russian journal, the Black Sea was visited towards the close of last year, by the most awful storms. During the month of November and the first fortnight of December, 30 vessels of different sizes were completely lost, and 75 very seriously damaged.

A letter dated Genoa the 18th Jan., published in the *Journal des Debats*, announces that the agitation of the sea continued, and even increased during the 13th, 14th, and 15th inst., and had caused considerable damage in the port and neghbourhood. Two French vessels were lost in the waters of the Sepezzia, and much injury was done to the new mole and the ramparts of Mala Paga, where the foundation of the barracks appropriated to the Custom-house troops were considerably shaken. On the evening of the 15th the Archbishop, together with the Chapter, and accompanied by all the Clergy of the place, the municipal authorities, and a great concourse of people, blessed the sea from the heights of the mole.

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ST. JOHN, N. B. MARCH 11.

TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE!—The brig Argyle, Capt. Brown, arrived here yesterday from St. Thomas, reports that that Island was visited by an earthquake on the 8th of February, causing the greatest consternation among the inhabitants.—Providentially it did no great damage at St. Thomas, but in several of the other West India Islands, the damage is said to have been immense.

A recent arrival at Philadelphia corroborates this statement, as will be seen by the following extract of a letter, which we take from a late paper:

EARTHQUAKE IN THE WEST INDIES.—We have been favored by a Commercial friend with the following extract of a letter, dated, St. Johns, Porto Rico, Feb. 10th, 1843.

"We had a severe earthquake here on the 8th inst., at 20 minutes past 10, A. M., and learn from the Steam Packet that arrived to-day from Windward Islands, that it was very severe in St. Vincents, St. Barts, Antigua, Nevis, Montserratt, St. Kitts, St. Martin's and St. Thomas's. It has done no damage here, but alarmed the people very much."—*Phil. Gaz.*

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By the Western Mail last evening, we received United States' papers containing further particulars of the terrible earthquake in the West Indies, which were brought to Baltimore on the 2d inst. by the brig Francis Jane, from St. Johns, Porto Rico. Intelligence of the destructive effects of the earthquake in the various Islands, is given in the following extracts of letters received by the owners of the Frances Jane:—

ST. JOHNS, P. R., Feb. 14, 1843.

We had a severe shock of an earthquake on the 8th inst., but it was not so severe as the one last year, though it lasted a longer time. In St. Thomas it was very severe, and it is said to have lasted over two minutes. All persons fled from their houses, but most fortunately no one was hurt, and no material damage was done there. A vessel arrived at St. Thomas from Antigua, reports that all the houses were thrown down in that Island, and the windmills were either down, or so much injured that they cannot be worked. In Nevis, also, everything (except the Bath House) is down, and the steamer passing Martinique, Guadaloupe and Montserratt, saw those Islands covered with a dense cloud of dust.