

tained. altho' one or two individual members of the party may have been favourable to it, when it was the great question of the day. But if those who now constitute the majority of the Assembly had been at any time pledged to Escheat, and abandoned the measure for the sake of office, then they would not stand worse with the people than many of their opponents, who were at first the most rabid escheators in the Island—changed, if not their views, at least their conduct, and ever after abused and persecuted every one who advocated escheat, and happened to be less pliant than they were themselves.

Now if the use of the terms, "Land Question," imply any measure which may be adopted by the Legislature, having a tendency to improve the condition of the Tenantry, then the allegation of its abandonment instantly falls to the ground: for the One-Ninth Bill, and the Bill relating to the Costs of Distress, shew that the majority of the Assembly are disposed to subserve the interests of the Tenant. Both these measures, and particularly the first, met with no favour from the Proprietors. Indeed, it is very well known, that Agents and Proprietors on the Island are now getting up a memorial to the Queen, praying Her Majesty to withhold her assent from the One-Ninth Bill. But the best answer we can give to the croaking of the common enemy in reference to the "Land Question," is simply this: That if they are so mightily concerned, as they pretend to be, for the welfare of the tenants, they should forthwith propound some scheme to ameliorate the condition of that class. Our opponents were for many years in possession of the Government; throughout the whole period of their career they not only did nothing to improve the condition of the Tenantry, but they violently opposed every measure having that object in view. Where can we find a parallel for the impudence and presumption of people who will charge their successors in office with not doing that which they had no inclination to do themselves?

I have the honor to be,

Your very obedient,
Humble servant,

EDWARD WHELAN.

Charlottetown, May 26, 1851.

P. S. I am obliged to omit many observations in reference to the topics discussed in the foregoing Letter. I shall, however, I trust, have an early opportunity for renewing the correspondence. You must be aware of the difficulty of compressing into the limited space which Newspaper columns afford, every fact and argument connected with the subjects to which I have adverted. It is, however, my intention shortly to appear amongst you, and at public meetings which I shall then call, to supply every omission, and explain my views more fully than I have been able to do in my printed letters. In the meantime you will be prepared, as I am, to meet with any quantity of misrepresentation and abuse directed against your Representative. Even were I disposed to reply to my adversaries, the course and ruffianly style in which, for the most part, I am assailed, would render a controversy impossible. Convinced that their enmity to me will be regarded by you as the best proof of the rectitude of my conduct, and of my zeal to promote your interests, so

far as it may be in my power, I shall practise the forbearance of the poet,—and disregarding the violence of my accusers,

"I'll let the fit pass o'er—I'm wise enough
To stop my ears to their confounded stuff."

E. W.

THE SPEAKER'S LETTER.

THE Speaker of the House of Assembly should, of all men, eschew letter-writing for the Newspapers; for every letter which he prints is so excessively droll, both as regards style and matter, that though he would have his readers to be as serious and contemplative as he is himself, they cannot be otherwise than disposed to merriment and laughter. If he be not in one respect, like Falstaff, witty in himself, he is certainly the cause of wit in other men, for he almost invariably furnishes them with matter for many a jibe; but the laughter which such jibes provoke is unfortunately at his own expense. The perusal of his last lucubration has made us his debtor for two or three hearty laughs; but the dence of it is, that at the end of every laugh we felt our respect for the Speaker, like Bob Acre's courage, oozing out at the palms of our hands. This last letter with which he patronised the organ of the Obstructives purports to be an explanation to his constituents of his conduct as one of their Representatives; but it is, in fact, a very un-Speaker-like attack on the political character of two or three members of the Body over whom he has been appointed to preside. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Pope and Fraser, have been obligingly favoured with a large share of the Speaker's censure, because, in the first place, they and others of the Liberal party did not adopt the Speaker's views—never fully detailed—in reference to Responsible Government; and because in the second place, (the weightiest reason for the Speaker's discontent) the gentlemen named have taken office, whilst the Speaker is, and can be nothing but, *the Speaker*. Now the plain English of the Speaker's discontent is this:—In 1850 he advertised himself as a candidate for the office which he now fills. He was told by the party who gave him that office, that his acceptance of it would exclude him from taking any situation connected with the Government, in the event of a change taking place. He wanted the Secretaryship; that was designed for another man. He was told he might have the Collectorship of Impost; that did not satisfy him. The Speaker weighed the matter well. He thought as the sportsman did, that one bird in the hand was better than two in the bush—that Responsible Government might never be conceded—that its concession, at any rate, was somewhat distant; and being sure of the Speakership, he resolved to take it. Responsible Government has been put in practice a little sooner than Mr. Rae expected it would—high offices have been conferred upon members of the Liberal party, less aspiring than Mr. Rae, though not less efficient, and certainly far more steadfast and consistent; and now because, in his eagerness for the Speakership, he has lost all chance of getting a higher salary, he is displeased with every body in general—not even, we venture to say, excluding himself—but he is displeased with the majority of the Assembly in particular.

The hon. and learned Speaker, is an admirer of plain speaking: in his published correspondence he has lately given us some examples in that way; should these hastily written observations meet his eye, he will be rejoiced to perceive that we have not been slow to profit by those examples.

THE PARTIAL ELECTIONS.

THE nomination of candidates for election to the seats vacated by the honorable Messrs. Warburton and Pope will take place on the 10th and 19th of June respectively. Both these gentlemen are now amongst their late constituents. Rumour says their election will be opposed—the former by a bitter enemy to the Liberal cause, the latter by a gentleman of great weight. It is evident there is some misunderstanding in the camp of the Obstructives on the subject of these elections, for whilst the intended opposing candidates are quietly "feeling their way," like Barnaby Rudge, and probably telling the honest electors "they don't like their eggs over fresh," the most sensible of their leaders is admonishing them not to contest the elections: which is the most prudent admonition that could be given, considering that the opponents of the Government candidates would be sure to come off only second best.

RAILROAD MEETING.

A RAILROAD MEETING, most numerous and respectfully attended, was lately held in Halifax; at which resolutions were adopted, approving of the policy of the local Government on the subject of the North American Railway—accepting the offer made by the British Government to Nova Scotia, to guarantee the payment of the interest on the money which will be required for the undertaking—recommending a convention in Canada of Delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and applauding the Hon. Mr. Howe for his successful negotiation in England in reference to this matter. Gentlemen of the different political parties in the Province have buried their party animosities, and agree to act in concert on this subject.

"A STRIKE."

THE money holders of Charlottetown have "struck"—not for higher wages, but for a higher rate of interest than five per cent, and decline to take the Government Debentures now issued from the Treasury. We have not, however, much reason to dread a crisis in the Financial Department of the Government, so long as the honest homespun capitalists are to be seen coming from the rural districts with their well-hoarded stockings full of sovereigns and dollars, to lend to the Government at five per cent. All the Debentures which were prepared by the Treasurer, previous to his leaving town, have been promptly taken up; and there are still several sums ready to be invested in the same way.

IMPORTANT FROM HAVANA!—GREAT EXCITEMENT!—RICOROUS TREATMENT OF AMERICAN SEAMEN.

The steamer Georgia, via Havana, arrived at New York on Tuesday week, from Chagres, with the California mail. She had \$1,500,000 in gold and 500 passengers.

The Georgia left Havana on the 1st instant.

There was great excitement in Havana in relation to the expected invasion, and every approaching vessel was looked upon with suspicion.

Many persons have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the anticipated invasion and attempt to overturn the government; and these persons have been thrust into prison—among them are three priests.

One man has been executed after having been subject to severe tortures for the purpose of getting from him a confession.

A row occurred between some American seamen and the inhabitants of Havana, when the seamen were arrested and their heads put into the stocks, where they were so ill treated that two of them subsequently died.

The fourth of the Chagres murderers has been arrested at Porto Cabello and brought to Panama, where he was confined in prison. The Georgia reports that they were all to be shot in a few days.

The Tennessee, which arrived at Panama on the 19th, had on board seven hundred thousand dollars in gold dust and 200 passengers.

The Columbus brought \$920,000 on freight. Two boxes of gold dust were stolen on the Isthmus, for which a reward of \$3000 are offered.

The railroad will, it is said, be finished to Gorgona by the last of July, if the weather continue good.

Chagres was healthy. The inhabitants have established a regular police, and life and property are much more safe than they have been heretofore.

REVOLT AND DESERTION OF SOLDIERS.

—Early on Thursday morning, the Corporal's guard, consisting of nine men, stationed at the Ordnance Stores, Lower Cove, deserted in a body, carrying their arms with them. The affair must have been previously arranged, as they all acted in concert, and at a given signal, seized the Corporal and bound his arms and legs, and gagged him by thrusting a piece of a broomstick in his mouth, and tying it round his head, to prevent him from making the least noise. They then started, taking their muskets with them, but the course they took has not yet been ascertained. It is most probable they went by water, in an open boat, and ere this have no doubt reached the United States, but if pursued and discovered they can be taken under the Ashburton treaty. It is seldom that we have to record so cool and daring a revolt among the Military stationed in these Colonies.—St. John New Brunswicker.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 13.—Arrest of the Nine Deserters at Eastport.—The nine privates of the 97th Regt., who deserted from this garrison during the night of Wednesday last, were arrested on Saturday morning at Eastport by the British Vice Consul there, Charles Sherwood, Esq.

Major Welsford left in the steamer Creole yesterday morning for the purpose of bringing those men back, accompanied by Mr. Stockford, M. H. Constable.—New Brunswicker.

Professor Johnston has written another work entitled "Notes on North American, Agricultural, social and economical." "New Brunswicker," says the St. John's Courier, "its resources, its people, their manners and habits, occupy more than half the work, and as the notice taken of us is highly favorable, it must produce a good effect."

Buctouche, in the northern section of New Brunswick, has been declared a Free Port, and Peter McPhelim, senr., appointed Deputy Collector of Customs and Navigation Laws.

LOSS OF THE R. M. STEAMER FALCON.—The arrival of the Sch. Lark, Capt. Adams from St. John's Newfoundland, at 2 p. m. this morning, brings the above come tidings of the total loss of the steamship Falcon, on her passage to Halifax last week.

The Falcon started for this place, at 9 p. m. on Wednesday, the 7th inst., and when five hours out from St. John's, she struck with tremendous violence on