

apply it to such purposes only as will serve to promote the general welfare.—It has been complained, and justly, that the industry of our people has not been protected and encouraged,—and that our resources, humble as they are, have not been drawn upon or improved to the extent they might have been. The agricultural class has been kept in poverty, and worse than servitude, by the Land tenure; and it has been the fatal error of too many Houses of Assembly to legislate, almost exclusively, for the benefit of the Proprietors; and, consequently, to the disadvantage of the tenants.

Besides these, there are many others which will, in due order, as the labours of the Session progress, imperatively demand and, we hope, fully receive the best consideration of the House. The most important of the legislative questions to be entertained, and, in all likelihood, the first to be grappled with and determined, will be those which most closely and most nearly concern the interests and well-being of the Tenantry. These are, fixing the rate of the Currency for the payment of rents, and the devising of some equitable and evidently practicable measure for the relief of our leasehold agriculturists from the bondage and burthen of their present unjust, oppressive, and skill-and-enterprise repressing tenures. Next may follow an enquiry respecting the administration or rather, perhaps, more correctly speaking, maladministration, of law and justice in our Courts of Law, particularly in the inferior ones; in which, through malversation and corruption, it is too often decreed, to the prejudice of humble industry and the amercement of honest contumacy, that "right is wrong, and wrong is right."

As most material to the practical success and working of any measure for the reform of our Law Courts, it will also be the duty of the House, by independent and determined action, to destroy the present home monopoly of legal practice at our Bar, and, with wise liberality, to open our ports, if we may so speak, to the free entry of the forensic thunderers of the adjacent Provinces—in fine to men, come they from what quarter of the British Empire they may, who, well versed in the principles of jurisprudence, honest in their practice, eloquent in speech, and fearlessly independent in the discharge of their professional duties, may interpose themselves as legal barriers between the oppressors and the oppressed in our Island; and convince some of the silly, vain, and inflated youthful members of our Bar, how little they are qualified and how far they are from being able "to make the worse appear the better cause," when they stand opposed to the talent, skill, knowledge, and eloquence of men justly entitled to the credit and applause which at all times have been so freely and generally bestowed upon every British lawyer who has honestly attained professional pre-eminence.

In due season, the House will also, we trust, revise the Law for the encouragement of Education, which, in its operation, is found to be so defective and inefficient. A much more regular, scientific, and comprehensive system of District School Education, than that now acted upon, must be established; and a certain and adequate provision must be provided, as a remuneration for the services of men fully qualified to discharge the most onerous and important duties of

instructors of youth: otherwise it may, it will be, long indeed before the young men of this Colony generally shall be found qualified and prepared to enter upon the paths to honour, distinction, and emolument, which will, speedily, by the operation of the principles of Responsible Government, be thrown open to the honorable ambition of all who may be possessed of worth, talents, and learning sufficient to free them from the imputation of folly and presumption in entering upon them. But we must warn the country against hoping for too much from the deliberation and action of their Liberal Representatives in their first Session. Of all the good, however, which can, within the period of one Session, be effected by men, whose principal characteristics are untiring perseverance, unflinching courage, and honest determination, not unallied, in some instances, to true political sagacity, extensive knowledge, and cultivated talent of a high order, nothing, we think we may safely assure the country, will be left either unattempted or unaccomplished.

BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE.

We understand that some misapprehension exists in certain quarters as to the side several of the new Members of the Assembly will take during the ensuing Session. To dispel all uncertainty and misapprehension, we have made close enquiry respecting those of whom doubt has been entertained, and we now publish a correct list of all the Members under their party designations:—

LIBERALS.	ANTI-LIBERALS.
George Coles,	Hon. Ed. Palmer,
Alexander Laird,	Francis Longworth,
Robert Mooney,	William Douse,
Niel M Neill,	Don. Montgomery,
Benjamin Davies,	James Yeo,
Wm. E. Clark,	T. Heath Haviland,
James Warburton,	Hon. Ed. Thornton.
Alexander Rae,	
Allan Fraser,	
William W. Lord,	
Joseph Pone,	
James M. Donald,	
Daniel Flynn,	
Donald Beaton,	
John Jardine,	
Edward Whelan,	
John W. LeLacheur.	

We have been frequently told, since the Election, that two of the above minority are very likely to vote on the Liberal side of the House. Having hitherto, however, advocated an opposite line of politics, we do not feel justified in placing their names amongst those of the Liberal Members, without an express intimation from themselves of their intention to join that party.

DREADFUL ASSAULT AND LOSS OF LIFE.—It is our painful duty to record a melancholy catastrophe which occurred, at or near New London, on Tuesday the 5th instant. A late member of Parliament, having on that day gone as far as Graham's Ferry to take a little fresh air, and make sundry exhibitions for the amusement of a crowd of people then and there assembled, by grunting, and twitching his head, and telling all kinds of improbable stories, after the manner of the celebrated Baron Munchausen, whose talent he has at several periods of his life more than rivalled, was violently and with malice aforethought, attacked by two individuals known by the names of "Rum and Ignorance," and beaten to such a degree that the unfortunate Gentleman shortly after expired. Up to the point

of this catastrophe the deceased was known to be on tolerably intimate terms with Mr. Rum, and took at all times especial pains to conciliate the favor of Mr. Ignorance, by yielding to his prejudices, and indiscretions. But what is particularly remarkable, many persons who were great admirers of the deceased sided with Rum on this occasion, and preferred his company to that of their late friend.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

It appears from the last information we have received up to the hour of going to Press that Rum and Ignorance are not entirely guilty of the horrible crime above laid to their charge. The deceased, our informant writes, had been in a very imperfect state of health for more than three years—that during that period he kept such bad company his constitution was completely undermined—that the prevailing symptom of his declining health was to go the wrong way in every thing—to do every thing contrary to the wishes and injunctions of his best friends,—and that on the fatal day of his decease he sank under the clamour of the multitude whom he was so solicitous to please.

THE CURRENCY.—On the 7th instant the subject of establishing a uniform rate of Currency throughout the British Provinces was brought under the consideration of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly by one of its members. We quote the Report of a Halifax paper on the subject:—

"Mr. Henry said, that as there was nothing before the House he should take the liberty of introducing the subject of our Currency to its notice. While in Nova Scotia the British Shilling was worth 1s. 3d. in New Brunswick it was worth less, in Newfoundland it was worth only 14d., and in Prince Edward Island 18d. There was no doubt that these differences were a great inconvenience to travellers, who were left at the mercy of the Banks, and other money-changing parties. He thought that a Committee could with advantage consider the subject, by conference with the other Colonies, and he moved for a Committee for that purpose.

"Hon. Provincial Secretary said that much time was wasted in making up the difference of Currency between the various countries; none could doubt but a revision of the present system was desirable; there were but two courses to be pursued, either to adopt the system of dollars and cents as acted upon in the United States, or that of the Pound Sterling. But it would be found that the introduction of this system would not be as easy as expected. The Banks would unanimously oppose it; there was hardly a coin changed but some party made money off it—and any improvement would be viewed with satisfaction.

"After a few words from Mr. Young, the Committee was appointed—Messrs. Henry, Young, Killam, Taylor, and Mignowitz."

Colonial and United States Mails.

THESE Mails reached Charlottetown at a late hour on Monday night. The Steamer, with the Mail from England, had arrived at Halifax just as the Eastern Coach was leaving that place for Pictou. It is not expected here before Monday evening next. We give below several items of intelligence from Canada and the United States.

PROTEST AGAINST EARL GREY'S DESPATCH.—A Telegraphic Dispatch published in the American papers, dated Montreal, February 7, says: "The Annexation Association have published a Protest against Earl Grey's Despatch, in

which they say they have not used the language of menace or sedition, and do not conceive Earl Grey to be the people of England. They also think the Parliament of England cannot decide in the matter till the subject is submitted to them in regular course by the people of Canada. Free discussion is declared to be the right of all men, and the safe-guard against despotism and rebellion. They ask the people to decide whether the Despatches are in accordance with the Constitution, and whether Earl Grey's opinions should affect the right of bringing any subject before the Legislature of the country. They will not be diverted from a legal course, and from defending the greatest bulwark of their country's liberties."

CANADA.—Considerable excitement has been caused by the election of a Representative for Quebec, in the Provincial Parliament, consequent upon the acceptance of office by a former member, Mr. Chabot. His re-election was opposed by Mr. Legare, an annexationist. The Quebec papers received last evening furnish us with the result of the first day's polling, as follows:—Chabot 1391; Legare 674. Majority in favour of the ministerial candidate 717.

UNITED STATES.—Resolutions in favour of Canadian annexation have been introduced into the New York Legislature. The cost of the Naval services of the United States for 1848-49 was \$13,398,317. The expenses of the U. S. frigate Macedonian sent to relieve the famine in Ireland was \$16,000. A great fire occurred in Buffalo, 5th instant; loss, 55,000.—Washington Gardens, Boston, have been leased to a company to erect a building devoted to the same amusements as Niblo's, New York.—The Hudson Bay Company have offered to sell their possessions, &c., in Oregon to the United States.—It is said the census of '50 will show Cincinnati to have a population of 125,000, and 70,000 for St. Louis.—Father Mathew has written to a friend in Boston that he is now out of debt, "perfectly free, and in a condition to mix independently with the citizens of this mighty Republic."

Dr. Webster has been arraigned and pleaded "Not Guilty." His appearance in Court attracted an immense crowd. His walk was firm, and his demeanour dignified, as he proceeded to the prisoner's box; but there was a palor of countenance, and a slight nervous movement on the muscles of his face, which showed that he was considerably moved by the awful novelty of his position. His trial is set down for the 19th day of March.

WE commend to the attention of our readers the sketch of the early life of the late Ebenezer Elliott, written by himself, which is concluded in this morning's paper. Apart from the interest which attaches to any thing relating to so remarkable and celebrated an author, the lively strain of the narrative—the piquant and forcible exposition of character it affords, and the modest spirit in which that exposition is given—render the whole composition peculiarly attractive.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The REV. ROBERT McNAIR, from the state of the roads and of the weather, not having returned from Georgetown, was unable to deliver his lecture on PHONOGRAPHY last Wednesday Evening. In order that the large audience who had assembled should not be disappointed, the President requested JOHN KENNY Esq., to deliver a Lecture, and to which Mr. KENNY most cheerfully consented. His Lecture was extemporaneous, and has been pronounced to be the best for the season. He took the "EARTH" for his subject.

This Evening Mr. HEARD will Lecture on "The Present Condition and future Prospects of Ship Building in this Island."

SCHOOL HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE.—Between one and two on the morning of Friday the 3th inst., the School and Meeting House, situate on Montague River, near Georgetown, was burnt to the ground, and the books and maps belonging to the children and schoolmistress, all destroyed. The fire originated from the insecure state of the stove, which it appears fell to pieces, and thereby caused the destruction of the building.