LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, April 14.

House in Committee on a Bill relating to electric telegraph communication with this Island.

HON. the PRESIDENT—There is only one observation which I wish to make with regard to this Bill. The Company are bound by this Bill to have the cable in working order on the 1st of July. Now, I think that is too soon—they should have a little more time. The cable, it is true, has been out of order when it was most required, especially during this winter, when the mails could not cross the Straits for three or four weeks; but that is their misfortune, not their fault. And as this Company has expended a very large sum of money in erecting this line, it would be unfair to bind them down to the 1st of July. I am aware that they have not received 2 per cent. for their outlay. I believe it is the intention of the Company to lay down a new cable, and that can only be done under peculiar circumstances, in order to be successful; the weather in June might be too stormy to lay it down, and when laid the first cable might not be successful. They have already laid two cables, both of which have become defective, and they must have cost 4000 or 5000 dollars each. I think the clause is rather stringent, and I, therefore, move that the word "July" be struck out, and the word "August" substituted.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON—I agree with his honor the President. I think the time should be extended to August, and in the meantime it need not slacken their energies in getting the cable laid.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I would leave the whole management of it in the hands of the Government. We do not require the cable so much in the summer as in the winter. I do not think they should be tied down to any particular time; and by binding them down in such a stringent manner we may be deprived of the cable altogether.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—The object in fixing the time at the 1st of July is to stimulate the operations of the Company in restoring the cable to working order; for I believe the fact is that it pays the Company so badly that they feel very little interest in it. There is nothing to urge the Company to action, and, therefore, they have not put forth any efforts to restore the cable to working order. Considerable inconvenience was experienced during the last autumn and winter for want of the cable, and it is likely to continue so. For this reason I apprehend the Legislature has thought proper not to allow the Company a great scope of time. I am willing to believe that the site or position of the cable is susceptible of improvement, and if I thought it was the intention of the Company to attend to it and put it in a better place, I would be willing to extend the time. However, I do not see any great objection to extending the time to August, and leaving it in the hands of the Government to give it or not as circumstances may require.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—If the Company make any efforts to put the cable in working order before the first of July, I would be willing to extend the time; but if not the contract should then cease.

The question of concurrence was then put on the amendment, and it passed in the affirmative.

The Committee having gone through the Bill, the House was resumed and the chairman reported the Bill agreed to with a certain amendment.

The Appropriation Bill and a Bill relating to steam navigation were then severally read the second time, passed through Committee, and reported agreed to. The Bill to render the Legislative Council elective was read the third time, as amended, and passed.

Hon. Mr. Palmer moved that the House do go into Committee on the Bill to give effect to the Report of the Commissioners on the Land Question.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—Though I should stand alone I will raise my voice against passing that Bill at the present time, as I understand that the Government have written for documents connected with the Report which are not here, and which should be before us before we go to legislate upon the Award. The report of the so called Spy is not before the House; and, from the high terms in which he is spoken of by one of the Commissioners, I think his report has had a good deal of influence on the decision of the Commissioners. As that Report is not before us now, and as this Commission has been brought through without the sanction of the country, for the country has never been tested upon it, therefore I think we are legislating very hastily, and hasty legislation is always dangerous. Before we go to confirm an Award which fixes the price of land at 20s. an acre, I think we should pause. It proposes to convert leasehold into freehold estates; but are the people in a position to purchase their farms at 20s. an acre? If the Award is confirmed in that shape, it will be no benefit to the tenantry. How many tenants will be made freeholders by it? What advantage will it be to the tenants who are not able to pay their year's rent, to have the privilege of purchasing their farms at 20s. an acre? I think there is something better in store for the tenants of this Island. If I thought the arbitration clause could be carried out I would support this Bill; but I do not see any benefit that could result from passing it in its present shape. I fear it will be an injury. I would at least wait till we have the Bill to facilitate the operation of the arbitration clause before us, and if we are satisfied with that then we can pass this Bill; but we cannot take a step backwards if we once sanction it. I do not like to be called upon to legislate when what we have to legislate upon is not before us. We may set a precedent which would be very injurious to the people. Even at the low price which the Government offer the land which they possess, many of the tenants are not able to purchase.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—There cannot be any great objection to waiting till the other Bill comes up.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—No doubt the arguments of his honor, Mr. Dingwell, will find an echo; but I consider that we are bound to abide by the Award, and, therefore, it is our duty to confirm it.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I want to see the nature of the Bill to confirm the arbitration clause. Are we bound to confirm the Award when we are not furnished with the papers connected with it? By confirming the Award, I consider that we are sanctioning the proceedings of a man who has gone through the country as a spy deceiving the people. The Award may be founded on false statements; therefore I contend that it is not consistent for the Legislature to sanction it. The affair about the spy is so disgraceful that it should not be tolerated in any country.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON—We have nothing to do with that; we have to do with the Award as it is, and we are bound to confirm it.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—His honor appears to think that we should have all the evidence before us to make another report. Does his honor expect us, after this "pains taking report," by competent men, to sit down here for three or four months to examine all the evidence, and make another report? The Commissioners have examined the evidence and here is the result. As to the so called spy, I consider it a reflection on the gentlemen who sent him here to call him a spy. Whose fault is it that the country has not been consulted on the Award? If the petitions, about which we heard so much last summer, had been sent in, I dare say the people would have had an opportunity of expressing their opinions. As to the delay till the other Bill comes, if this Bill is not passed we will not require another.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I thought, Mr. President, that the debate on the principle of the Bill was closed on Saturday. I have objections to being called upon to repeat my observations on the Bill. It is neither interesting to the Colony, nor for the advancement of the public business that I should do so. But I believe the arguments and observations of his honor, Mr. Dingwell, are intended to go forth to the world, and I should be very sorry to let them go without being answered. I do not rise with the expectation of changing the minds of any of your honors. Now, Sir, his honor would have us to wait till we obtain the evidence which the Commissioners acted upon, and he appears to think that this evidence is very essential for the information of the Legislature before passing this Bill. Now, Sir, you are aware that an application has been made to the Colonial Office for this matter, and the answer is before us. Application has also been made to the Commissioners for it, and the answer was that they possessed no printed copy, and it would take a great deal of time, and entail a good deal of expense, to copy it, as it was a very voluminous document. Now is it necessary for us to wait and risk the loss of this measure because we have not this appendix before us? It is not our province to examine the materials from which the Commissioners drew their decision, and to say that their decision was wrong. It would be violating the compact which exists between the Colony and the other parties concerned in the Commission. We would be periling the result of the Commission, and lowering ourselves, were we to do so. I would not do so if I had the appendix in letters of gold. I can read and appreciate the Award without the evidence on which it is founded. I have no objection to the country seeing it; but I look upon it as a document which has nothing to do with the progress of this Bill through the Legislature. His honor also appears to think that, notwithstanding the power given to the Commissioners, the Award should be submitted to the people before it is confirmed.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I only said we should appeal to the people.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—For what purpose?

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—To test their minds on the Award.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—That is what I call submitting it to the people, Mr. President. And if it were submitted to the people—if a dissolution took place—and a small majority were returned opposed to the Award, even then we could not be guided by the opinions of the people. But I trust there would be very few found to support his honour in his views.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—The time may come yet.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Yes it may; but that should not induce us to hesitate one moment in confirming the Award. The people might not thank us for not confirming it when we had the power. The Award has now been before the people almost since the meeting of the Legislature. It has been disseminated over the Island almost as broadly as it could be sown, and what is the consequence? I have not seen a single petition, or heard a single complaint against it, with a view of repudiating it.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—It has been received with general dissatisfaction.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—It is very extraordinary then that there has not been a single petition against it presented to the Legislature. I think this fact speaks volumes, Mr. President. It shows that we are on the right road. Now, Sir, his honor has remarked with a good deal of emphasis on the person whom the Commissioners entrusted to collect special evidence, and he has followed in the cry of parties outside and called him a Spy endeavouring to make his mission an odious one, because his information was obtained privately. Now, I take the opportunity to say, once for all, that when the Commissioners sat here all parties had the most unbounded confidence in them. The people considered that no man could be found in North America more capable, or who would more faithfully represent their interests, than the man chosen by the Government of this Colony. They held their Court here, and solicited every man, in the most unrestricted manner, to appear before them, and they left this Island having popular opinion in their favour.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—Yes, till the secret agent came.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—Very well, I am glad to get that admission from an hon. member of the Opposition. Well, what was the next thing presented to the mind of the Lieutenant Governor? One day a stranger presented himself to His Excellency and gave him a letter informing him that the Commissioners had selected that man to obtain information on such particulars as they deemed essential in order to make an Award; and that they had sent him to his Excellency, not to ask his opinion, but to see whether the Island would bear his expenses. Let me ask you would any Governor turn round, under these circumstances, and say, No! we will not receive you? What would be the voice of the people if they were listening? Would they not say it was folly for the Governor to reject him? Would they not say it was an insult to the Commissioners who sent him? There was no alternative for his Excellency but to say this Island would bear the expense. His Excellency was enjoined to secrecy. He was at liberty to consult with one member of his Government with regard to the expense, but no more. Then, who is to blame that the Commissioners sent that man here? I suppose the man followed his instructions. When the British Government require a diplomatist they select a man of shrewdness. They do not tell him to read his instructions aloud wherever he goes. He just follows his instructions; he goes among the people and watches public opinion and public sentiment, and keeps his Government posted up in it. Therefore, I do not see that there is anything so very extraordinary in the course pursued by the Commissioners or by their secret agent. This man could fall in with proprietors as well as with tenants, and if his mission were known they would cram him with information which would be prejudicial to the interests of the tenants; it was better, therefore, not to make it known. The Governor had no discretion to interfere further than to get him his disbursements; and I think the Government has done all that any Government having the good of the country at heart could do. Mr. Whitman done his business well, for he was away from the Island before any member of the Government but myself knew that he was here. I hope I shall not have occasion to rise again to answer any objections to that person which your honors have caught up from persons outside.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—His honor has stated that it was necessary that Mr. Whitman should keep his business secret; but I think he could have gone to different places and to different parties, and asked the price of land, without keeping his business so very secret. No person of a noble mind could have acted as he acted. But what astonishes me most of all is, that the Commissioners could not have come to a proper decision without sending such a man here at all. They went through the different Counties and then returned to Charlottetown—their court was open and free—they had ample time, and could take evidence much better than Mr. Whitman could, and why could they not come to a decision without sending him here? When he was here I went into the Treasurer's office one day and seeing a strange man there I enquired who he was; I was told that he was a man sent here by a Firm to establish a Fishery on the Island, and he is looking through the documents to ascertain where he can get a good place. Now, I think the Commissioners might have done without sending that man here; he has caused a great deal of agitation throughout the Island, and if he has not given false information, the people believe he has.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I was not prepared to hear his honor the leader of the Government take this man's part, or to justify him in going through the country to condemn the evidence taken before the Commissioners. I was not prepared, I say, to hear him attempt to justify either that man or the Commissioners in sending him, because he descended so low as to take advantage of the poor and ignorant to their injury. I say such a man cannot have the feelings of a gentleman. Should a Judge in any Court, I ask, after hearing the evidence, take evidence from one party privately? I cannot command language sufficiently strong to express my detestation of such proceedings; and if his honor, the leader of the Government, knew the feelings of the country on the matter as well as I do, I question if he would attempt to justify either Mr. Whitman or the Commissioners.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, April 15th.

A "Bill for investing all estates and property occupied by or for the Naval Service of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Lord High Admiral, or the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral for the time being," a "Bill relating to electric telegraphic communication with this Island," and a "Bill to appropriate certain moneys therein mentioned, for the service of the year of our Lord 1862," were severally read the third time and passed.

The Bill "to give effect to the Report of the Commissioners on the land question," was then committed and agreed to without any amendment.

On the question being put, "shall the report of the committee be received," the House divided:

CONTENTS—Hon. the President, Hons. Messrs. Simpson, Ramsay, Haszard, Anderson and Johnson—6.

NON-CONTENTS—Hons. Messrs. Hutchinson and Walker—2.

So it passed in the affirmative.

House adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Mr. PALMER presented a Bill to explain certain parts of the Act for the establishment of the Prince of Wales' College. It is somewhat doubtful, said his honor, whether scholarships can be selected from the College, or whether they can only be taken from the District schools. I believe it was originally intended that they should only be taken from the District schools, but the Act is not sufficiently explicit on that point.

A Bill "for raising a revenue," and a Bill "to facilitate the operation, in certain particulars, of the Award or Report made by certain Commissioners appointed to settle and adjust differences respecting some of the Township lands of this Island," were severally read the second time, passed through committee, and reported agreed to.

The Bill relating to Steam Navigation in this Island was read the third time and passed.

House adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORALITY IN PRUSSIA AND IN ENGLAND.

No. 13.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR—It has been the aim of certain parties, with the view of advancing their own political and selfish interests, to make Catholics and Catholic countries appear as low as possible in the social and moral scale. In endeavouring to remove some of the odium heaped on us it is necessary sometimes to give statistics and extracts which may be a little disagreeable to many friends; but as this is done in self defence, of course it cannot be attributed to the desire of giving the least offence even to the most sensitive. I have already shown the deplorable state of morals in Lutheran Sweden and especially in Stockholm, where, according to the testimony of a distinguished Scotch Presbyterian traveller, more than one third of the population are bastards! I shall now give from the writings of the same gentleman an extract from which we may form an idea of the morality of Protestant Prussia, the country of Luther. Mr. Laing asserts in regard to this country that chastity, the "Index virtue of the moral condition of a people, is lower than in almost any part of Europe." (p. 173.) In proof of this he says :—

"It is no uncommon event in the family of a respectable tradesman in Berlin to find on his breakfast table a little baby, of which, whoever may be the father, he has no doubt at all about the maternal grandfather. Such accidents are so common in the class in which they are least common with us—the middle class removed from ignorance or indigence—that they are regarded but as accidents, as youthful indiscretions, not as disgraces, affecting, as with us, the respectability and happiness of all the kith and kin for a generation." (Ibid.)

This frightful state of morals is not at all surprising; for in no country in the world should we expect the doctrines of Luther—"Si nolit domina, veniat ancilla," &c.,—to be practised to such an extent as in Prussia, and, as a matter of course, it should be "no uncommon event in the family of a respectable tradesman in Berlin to find on his breakfast table a little baby," and such "accidents" should be regarded as mere "youthful indiscretions."

When innumerable British Protestants are endeavouring to raise a social persecution against Catholics, by frequently harping on the ignorance and immorality of Catholic countries, I may be permitted to bring before the public a few facts regarding the social and moral condition of millions of Englishmen, not for the purpose of hurting the feelings of those who may differ from myself in religion, but in order to show that ignorance and immorality exist elsewhere besides in Catholic countries. No one can deny that England is at the present day great and glorious in many respects, and there are few who are prouder than your humble servant of her high prestige and free institutions—the result not of her Protestantism but of that glorious British Constitution wrested from tyrannical sway in the good old Catholic times—yet that there exists amongst the masses of her people an amount of ignorance, immorality, and beastly degradation unsurpassed in any country in the world, is a fact which I presume no one will attempt to gainsay, and which should cause British Protestants to blush with shame at the violent attacks which are made on Catholics abroad, when they themselves have such an immense amount of heathenism and brutality to remedy at home. That such is the case I shall prove from the most respectable Protestant authorities. Dr. Channing, in his "Duty of Free States," as quoted by J. Kay, Esq., M. A., Travelling Bachelor of the University of Cambridge, says :—

"To a man who looks with sympathy and brotherly regard on the mass of the people, who is chiefly interested in the lower classes, England must present much that is repulsive....The condition of the lower classes at the present moment is a mournful comment on English institutions and civilization. The multitude are depressed in that country to a degree of ignorance, want and misery, which must touch every heart not made of stone. In the civilized world there are fewer sadder spectacles than the present contrast in Great Britain of unbounded wealth and luxury, with the starvation of thousands and tens of thousands, crowded into cellars and dens, without ventilation or light, compared with which the wigwam of the Indian is a palace. Misery, famine, degradation, in the neighbourhood and presence of stately mansions which ring with gaiety, and dazzle with pomp and unbounded profusion, shock us as no other wretchedness does." (The Social Condition and Education of the People, by J. Kay, M. A., vol. 1, p. 374.)

Mr. Kay quotes largely from "Lord Ashley's admirable speech on juvenile destitution, delivered in the House of Commons on the 6th of June, 1848," and from which I will give a few extracts. It appears that in London alone there are thirty thousand young persons living in "lodging houses," which Mr. Kay calls "hells," and of which Lord Ashley gives the following description :—

"I will give a description of the lodging-houses. Many of them which I have seen were abominable; but the statement I will lay before the House was given on the authority of a City Missionary, who had been appointed to inspect and report on the subject. It is not an exaggerated description of those places, where hundreds and thousands of the human race are congregated. The City Missionary, speaking of a lodging-house, and referring to the 'parlour'—for there are many euphonious terms to be applied—said :—'The parlour measures 18 feet by 10. Beds are arranged on each side of it, composed of straw, rags and shavings. Here are 27 male and female adults, and 31 children, with several dogs; in all 58 human beings, in a contracted den from which light and air are systematically excluded. It is impossible,' he says, 'to convey a just idea of their state,—the quantities of vermin are amazing! I have entered a room, and in a few minutes I have felt them dropping on my hat like peas.' 'They may be gathered by handfuls,' observed one of the inmates. 'I could fill a pail in a few minutes. I have been so tormented with the itch, that on two occasions I filled my pockets with stones, and waited till a policeman came up, and then broke a lamp, that I might be sent to prison, and there be cleansed, as is required before new comers are admitted.' 'Ah!' said another, standing by, 'you can get a comfortable snooze and scrub there'!" (pp. 399 and 400.)

"Here," says Lord Ashley, "is a statement made by a medical man :—'In a place, where these public privies exist, scenes of the most shocking character are of daily occurrence. It will scarcely be believed, that these public privies often stand opposite the doors of the houses: modesty and decency are, therefore, altogether impossible.' But, in a private house, is the boy exposed to better influences than in the lodging-house? Very often several families are found in one room. It is a fortunate family which has one room for itself. Everything is transacted in that room. Cleanliness is impossible; it is a scene of filth, misery and vice." (pp. 401.) Thus it appears that a large proportion of those who dwell in all the larger towns "of the British empire are crammed into regions of filth and darkness, the ancient but not solitary reign of the newts and toads." (p. 411.)

Did one-twentieth part of the sickening abominations which Lord Ashley brought to the notice of the House of Commons exist in Italy, Spain, or Austria, what eloquent Popish-abomination speeches would be delivered by "Ministers of the Gospel" throughout the length and breadth of the land! It is no wonder that so much vice and degradation exist among the common people of England and Wales, for if we are to believe the most respectable Protestant authorities, they live and die in a state of heathenism. Mr. Kay says :—

"Of the Operatives in Lancashire, and of the workmen in our great towns, there is not—and I speak after considerable experience and numerous inquiries—THERE IS NOT ONE OUT OF EVERY TEN WHO EVER ENTERS A CHURCH, and still fewer who attend regularly." (vol. 1, p. 416.) I REPEAT THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE GREAT TOWNS OF THIS KINGDOM HAVE NO RELIGION." (vol. 2, p. 511.)

Perhaps I may be permitted most respectfully to suggest to Mr. Laird and the other religious gentlemen of Charlottetown, who seem to take such a deep interest in the conversion of the heathen, the propriety of establishing a society for the conversion of the poor heathens of England, who certainly stand in as much need of the Gospel, and have as strong a claim on British charity as their confreres the heathens of Erromanga.

I have the honor, &c.,

A. McDONALD.

St. Dunstan's College, May 15, 1862.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

TO MISS ——————.

O Lassie, ye hae gaen agley
Wi' pride sa unco fou;
Ye ken it was a heaveril thing
For sic a lass as you.

Ye are na like the bonnie rose—
Your birth's na high ava;
Your tocher is no muckle, lass;
Your wit is vera sma.

Guid sake what are ye proud about?
Why haud your head in air,
And winna look at decent folk,
As guid as ye and fair?

Ye hae a silly fashion, lass,
When wi' some haughty friend,
To gang your auld acquaintance by,
As tho' ye never ken'd.

Thae "upper crust," wha' baked themsel'es
Thae cakes o' high degree,
Thae apes o' birth, an' sense an' gowd,
Just laugh, puir lass, at ye.

As thae apes ape, sae ye maun ape
The unco high and braw,
Your a' ae woof o' senseless airs,
Na gentles lass ava.

Think na sae mickle o' yoursel,
'Tis mental wastrie a';
Get na on stilts when wi' big folk,
For pride maun hae a fa'.

Toom headed lass, just ken yoursel,
The keek your pains maun pay,
Syne ye shall faud puir paughty ane,
Ye'r nought but common clay.

RECK THE REDE.

Charlottetown.

POLITICAL JUGGLERY.

HON. EDWARD WHELAN—DEAR SIR—The conduct of the Tories respecting the Land Commission is the greatest piece of political jugglery in colonial legislation of which I have yet read. It is evident that the sole object of the proprietary clique, who have plunged this Island into a ruinous debt by their reckless extravagance, in serving their political partisans, has been the confirmation of their own doubtful titles as well as those of their friends. Had they been in earnest they might have settled the Land Question for ever; but instead of doing this, they have made matters ten times as bad as ever they were. They have made large promises, raised anxious expectations—but they have performed nothing. Had they desired the Commission to be beneficial to the tenantry, they would have afforded every facility for making an inquiry into the state of the land tenures, by giving public documents, &c., and pleading the cause of the poor oppressed tenants. But they did none of these things. Everything they done in the way of giving documents appeared to be done against the grain; and, far from interceding for the poor and the oppressed, they actually pleaded the cause of the proprietors. Witness, for example, the conduct of the Colonial Secretary. I believe that one member of the Government, for the purpose, perhaps, of deceiving the unwary tenants, by appearing to be their friend, attempted to say something in their favour, but he was soon "gagged."

The most infamous thing connected with the Land Commission farce was the employing of a SPY, who, it appears, was favoured with an office in the Province Building, and furnished with all the documents which he required. This is, I believe, the most disgraceful thing that was ever permitted in a British Colony. This Spy went through the country on false pretences, deceiving the people by speaking about fisheries, railroads, &c., to induce the poor people to put a high price on their lands. The Government party has defended this procedure which no language can render sufficiently odious. Our Tory Spy defenders shall soon learn how we regard the disgraceful manner in which we have been imposed on.

The only portions of the famous Award, viz:—the arbitration clause and the recommendation to borrow money to purchase the lands from the proprietors, which were likely to be of any benefit to the tenantry, have been, I may say, protested against by the Duke of Newcastle. At this we cannot be surprised when we consider the influence of the Tories—an influence of which they so often boast—at the Colonial Office. It is well known that Mr. Palmer and his Government are averse to the policy of a Loan. This is evident enough from the snubbing which Mr. Palmer gave the Editor of the 'Islander,' alias the Col. Secretary, who had to make a most ignominious amende honorable for his recommendation of a Loan. Is it to be supposed that the Tory faction did not use their influence against the Loan recommendation in the Award, and hence the opinion of the Duke of Newcastle respecting it? Of this I have very little doubt, although they may have unwittingly conferred a lasting benefit on the Island by not giving themselves the opportunity of squandering £100,000 sterling in paying three or four values for their own lands and those of their friends. The Col. Secretary expatiated last year very largely on the benefits likely to accrue to the tenant from the arbitration clause; but he has been discreetly silent on that point since the appearance of Newcastle's despatch, throwing cold water on the affair. The climax of the Land Commission farce is the Tories confirming the Award, knowing at the same time to a certainty that the Duke of Newcastle will not stultify himself by recommending the Queen to confirm an Act the contents of which are directly contrary to his instructions. But what do they care so long as they can succeed in deceiving the tenantry. Their fate is now sealed—political humbug, charlatanry and jugglery will now avail nothing.

Knowing that their rule of deception is coming to a close—anticipating the storm of indignation that will burst over their heads at the approaching election, W. H Pope, who appears to be their scapegoat, tries to play his card by the effect of religious animosities. He leaves no stone unturned to excite Protestants against Catholics; but his efforts will fail. Protestants and Catholics are here united, and they are determined to use their united strength to expel from office a deceitful, hypocritical, tyrannical clique which has dealt so shamefully, and to such an extent, in deceit and political cajolery. Protestants in this direction are ashamed of the part played in the name of Protestantism by that "hated" individual who has been publicly accused of having been convicted of a very immoral action, and is very generally believed to have —— the bank; and they have very serious doubts about the sincerity of a £350 religion, and the orthodoxy of an individual whom they have good reasons for regarding in no better light than as "a big potatoe infidel."

A VOICE FROM THE COUNTRY.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

THE SONGS I LOVE BEST—THE SWEET SONGS OF THE SPRING.

Dame Nature, exultant from death's cold embrace,
Comes fresh on the stage with a smile on her face;
And flushed with new vigor, I hear her now sing
The songs I love best, the sweet songs of the spring.

The snow-laden tempest no longer I fear,
For a vertical sun now softens the year,
And curbs the wild Bear of the North in his speed;
While the mild South'rn Lamb frisks tame o'er the mead.

A rich carpet of grass sprouts green o'er the earth,
And the woods and the plains all vocal with mirth,
Revive my sad heart, as in tune forth they sing
The songs I love best, the sweet songs of the spring.

The shrill creak of the door encased by the frost,
And the click of the axe in the forest are lost;
While the robin's gay note, at morning's first dawn,
Informs me that winter, cold winter, has gone.

The bleat of the lambkin oft strikes my ear now,
And the shout of the swain, at the hilt of his plough;
Yes, each light zephyr on its bosom doth bring
Some sound I love best, some sweet song of the spring.

E'en the May-flower, just blown, in maiden-like bloom,
Sings, sylph-like, in silence, of life from the tomb,
And bids us look forward in faith to an hour
When man from the grave shall spring up like a flower.

Then come ye with me to the forests and fields,
And list to the music Dame Nature now yields;
For all flushed with new life, I hear her now sing
The songs I love best, the sweet songs of the spring.

W. M. G. R.

New London, May 9th, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—The writer in 'Ross's Weekly' of the 8th inst., in his remarks upon the misapplication of the word "transpire," may rest assured that he is perfectly correct in his criticism. Webster's authority is certainly entitled to respect, and among Americans it is probably decisive; but with educated Englishmen, who may be supposed to understand their own language in its simplicity and purity, it is quite another thing.

Dr. Johnson, our best lexicographer, in his secondary definition of the word "transpire," viz: "to escape from secrecy to notice," observes, that this rendering "is an innovation from France, without necessity;" and if this not unusual acceptation of its meaning be foreign and needless, what are we to think of that unauthorised one of Webster's, which not only confounds the meaning of the verb itself, but actually changes its very construction from transitive to intransitive.

It is evident that he who styles himself "One of the Moderns," in the 'Monitor' of the 14th inst., has not studied the vernacular to much advantage, or he would not have adventured upon the defence of so palpable a solecism.

"Whether the violation of the Sabbath can be said to transpire" (!) This is all mere jargon. To transpire requires the exertion of a living agent. The observation of the Sabbath is a divine command, the breach of which is not only frequent, but notorious, and does not admit of personification by any rule of rhetoric.

It would be well for our modern friend to know that the purest and best English was written and spoken in what has been termed the Augustan age of our history, a period that dates back nearly two hundred years; and still more, that the authorized version of the Holy Scriptures, made in the days of the 1st James, is and will ever remain the test of the best English composition, all additions and fancied improvements by modern tyros to the contrary notwithstanding.

ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

22d May, 1862.

A NEW TORY DODGE.

HON. MR. WHELAN—SIR—The Tories are trembling for their Government, and have recourse to the most odious and ignoble means to retain their position. Finding that Wm. McGill, Esqr., is likely to be returned at the coming election by a Protestant constituency, they wish to represent that gentleman as the tool of Catholic Priests; and for this purpose a late 'Monitor' calls public attention to his being often seen *tete-a-tete* with Priests. No one acquainted with Mr. McGill ever thought that he was anything else than a consistent Protestant; and I have no hesitation in saying that the assertion regarding his been frequently seen in conversation with Catholic clergymen is a contemptible, malicious lie. And even if he did speak to Catholic Priests, is that a sin, moral or political? Drowning men catch at straws, and sinking Tories have no regard either to honor or truth to support their tottering cause. Mr. McGill's political and religious opinions are too well known to be much misrepresented by the 'Monitor.' I have never seen Mr. McGill walking arm in arm with a Roman Catholic Priest; I have never seen him put his arms on his shoulders in the House of Assembly; I have not seen him visit Bishop McIntyre's residence about two or three times a day for several weeks; but there is a man high in office in the Government whom I have seen do these things, and that is that distinguished supporter, not of Protestantism, but of Tory-Orange-Protestantism—W. H. Pope, Col. Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

A HATER OF HYPOCRISY.

Charlottetown, May 17, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In Parson Sutherland's new Geography, which I see he is peddling illegally through the Island, he states that the Wood Islands are a "barren rock." Now, it is generally said by all those who know them that there is no better land on the Island or Main Land.

The owner and occupier, Thomas McMahon, is very wrothy at such a statement going through the Island in such a way as might be said by the authority of the Board of Education, for the thing appears to be patronized by that body; and he says he intends to enter an action at common law against the Rev. Peddler for damages, as his appellation of "barren" applied to the Wood Islands would have the effect of damaging the sale of them considerably in the estimation of all those who do not know of their extraordinary fertility, as it is very seldom they require the application of manure, being naturally good.

By publishing this you will confer a favour on Mr. McMahon, and also on,

Yours, &c.

May 17, 1862. TRUTH.

EAST AND WEST.—The following little article from the Chicago "Times" indicates the beginning of a somewhat ugly controversy between the East and the West. We have long foreseen that some such difficulties would arise:—

"That the interests of the entire producing West are sacrificed for the benefit of the manufacturing monopolies of the East by the existing republican tariff, needs no argument to prove. It was not designed to produce the largest amount of revenue, but simply to give to New England and Pennsylvania the monopoly of the markets of the whole country for their special productions; and consequently the burden of the tariff falls upon the consumers of the goods. The principle of such a tariff is not only wrong in itself, but, from this time forward, will be doubly oppressive upon the producing West. The West must pay into the pockets of the East an amount equal to the tariff upon their articles of consumption, or the tariff upon the imported article. And as the tariff was designed for protection and not for revenue, the remainder of the means necessary to pay the expenses of the government, the war debt and the war expenses, must be laid directly upon the people by direct taxation. These points were clearly set forth in the preamble and resolution rejected by the House the other day by a strictly party vote. The facts in the case were presented clearly by a Washington correspondent of the 'Times' in Thursday's paper. The North-West will get rid of its mania for black men after a little, and turn its attention to the protection of its own rights."

A gentleman who has travelled around the world states that he found a volume of Lallah Rookh in a Mexican convent, a volume of Burns's poems on a battle field in South America, and an American edition of Childe Harold on an island in the Pacific Ocean.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 26th, 1862.

THE PROPRIETORS' LAND SETTLEMENT BILL.

WE copy from the last 'Royal Gazette' the following despatch from the Colonial Minister, with the accompanying draft Bill sent out by the Proprietors' to supersede the Bills passed last Session, relating to the Award of the Land Commission:—

Prince Edward Island.

No. 103. DOWNING STREET, 5th April, 1862.

SIR—I have been requested by Sir Samuel Cunard to forward to you the enclosed Draft Bill, embodying a plan for giving the Tenants in Prince Edward Island the power of purchasing their holdings on certain terms there laid down. Sir Samuel Cunard expresses to me a confident hope that these terms will be found to satisfy the expectations of the Tenants, and will be well received by the Legislature.

I have not had time, since receiving this document, to examine the full bearings of the proposal; nor in any case should I pronounce a confident opinion on a matter depending so much on questions of local detail. But I need hardly say that it will give me great pleasure to find Sir Samuel Cunard's anticipations are well founded.

The Letter in which the Draft Bill was first communicated to me was signed by Sir Samuel Cunard, Mr. E. Cunard, Mr. L. Sullivan, and Sir Graham Montgomery, for himself and Mr. James Montgomery, who therefore may be taken as having unquestionably concurred in it. But the Schedule to the Bill—I don't know on what authority—contains various other names. I think that if the Bill was to be passed by the Legislature, the only Proprietors on whom it could be made at once compulsory, are the gentlemen whose names I have above given. I should have little doubt, however, that the other gentlemen named in the Schedule to the Bill, are in fact consenting parties, although it has not been practicable to forward their actual signatures to the Colonial Office.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Lieut. Governor DUNDAS, &c., &c.

A Bill for settling differences between Landlord and Tenant, and to enable Tenants on certain Townships to purchase the Reversion of their Farms.

Whereas, by a certain Address of the House of Assembly of this Island, pursuant to certain Resolutions passed by the said House, it was prayed that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to direct a Commission to enquire into the existing relations between Landlord and Tenant, and to negotiate with the Proprietors for abatement of Arrears of Rent, and also for terms to enable the Tenants to purchase the reversion of their farms.

And whereas Sir Samuel Cunard, Baronet, Edward Cunard, Sir Graham Montgomery, James Montgomery, the Right Honorable Lawrence Sullivan, Daniel Hodgson, William Cundall, John Roach Bourke, the Honorable Thomas Heath Haviland, John A. McDonald, and the Honorable Edward Palmer and Henry Palmer, proprietors of the several Township Lands mentioned in the Schedule to this Act, marked A., did agree to the issuing of such Commission. And whereas a Royal Commission was thereupon issued, which is as follows:—

(L. S.) "VICTORIA R.

"VICTORIA, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith. To all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting.

"Whereas We have been moved by the Assembly of Our Island of Prince Edward, to appoint Commissioners to inquire into the differences now prevailing in our said Island, relating to the rights of landowners and tenants in Our said Island, with a view to the settlement of the same on just and equitable principles: And whereas the said Assembly has further, by a resolution dated the 14th day of April last, set forth its agreement to abide by the decision of any such Commissioners, or the majority of them, and to concur in whatever measures may be requisite for giving validity to their decision: And whereas it is highly desirable that the said differences should be adjusted:

"Now know ye, that We, taking the premises into Our Royal consideration, are graciously pleased to nominate and appoint, and do by these presents nominate and appoint, Our trusty and well-beloved John Hamilton Gray, Esquire, Our trusty and well-beloved Joseph Howe, Esquire, and Our trusty and well-beloved John William Ritchie, Esquire, to be Our Commissioners for inquiring into the said differences, and for adjusting the same on fair and equitable principles.

"Given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, this 25th day of June, 1860, in the 24th year of Our Reign.

"By Her Majesty's command,

"(Signed) NEWCASTLE."

And whereas the said Commissioners, by their Report, did find and declare that the said Township Lands were not liable to forfeiture in consequence of any omission to perform, or any non-performance of any of the conditions in the original grants thereof. And also that no arrears of the Quit Rents, by the said grants reserved, are now due or recoverable from the Proprietors, Tenants, or Occupiers of such lands; and also that the Proprietors, their Tenants, or Occupiers, should be quieted in their possession of certain parts of the said land, called or known as "The Fishery Reserves," and did also declare and Award that all arrears of Rent which accrued due to the said Proprietors in respect of any of the said Lands, previous to the ———, 1858, should be remitted to the Tenants, and did also fix certain rates at which they should have a right to purchase the reversion of their farms. And whereas the said Commissioners did also, by their Report, direct and provide that, in certain cases, the value of the lands should be ascertained by Arbitrators, to be appointed by the Landlords and their Tenants, in making which last direction or provision the said Commissioners exceeded the authority intended to be given them by the Assembly and the said Proprietors, and the same, if confirmed by Act, might give rise to many disputes and much litigation between Landlords and Tenants, and such direction or provision cannot be allowed or confirmed. And whereas it is, nevertheless, expedient for preventing the Tenants being deluded by the agitation of impracticable projects, based on certain questions called, in the said Resolutions, "The Escheat Question," "The Fishery Reserve Question," and "The Quit Rent Question," as well as for securing to them the benefit arising from the remission of Arrears of Rent, and the right to purchase the reversion of their farms, that the declarations, provisoes, or directions relative thereto should be confirmed in the manner and under the provisoes hereinafter mentioned.

And whereas the said Proprietors have agreed, during the several periods hereinafter mentioned, to adopt the rates of commutation fixed by Her Majesty's Government for the Commutation of the Quit Rents, as the rates at which they will permit their Tenants to purchase the reversion of their respective farms, and which rates are more advantageous to the Tenants, than the rates fixed in the said Award.

1. Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Assembly, that from and after the passing of this Act, every Tenant of any of the Proprietors in the said Schedule named, having, at the time of his desiring to exercise the right of purchase hereinafter given, an unexpired term of not less than twenty-one years, under written demise, in any of the Township lands of such Proprietors therein mentioned, shall have a right or option to purchase the reversionary interest of such Proprietors, his heirs, or assigns therein, at the rates hereinafter mentioned, that is to say: during the first period of five years, from the 1st day of May, 1862, every such Tenant shall have a right or option to purchase such reversionary interest at fifteen years purchase of the yearly reserved rent; during the next period of five years ensuing, such Tenant shall have a right or option to purchase such reversionary interest at 18 years purchase of the said yearly reserved rent; and during all subsequent periods every such Tenant shall have a right or option to purchase such reversionary interest at twenty years' purchase of the said yearly reserved rent. Provided always, that in any case where the said yearly rent, during the first portion or years of the term, shall be less than the yearly rent reserved during the residue of such term, the amount of the purchase money shall be computed by multiplying the maximum or full rent reserved during such residue of such term by the number of years purchase at which such Tenant may, under the provision aforesaid, be entitled to purchase.

2. Be it further enacted, that the hereinbefore recited Declarations or Award of the said Commissioners, respecting the Escheat or forfeiture of the Lands, and the Arrears of Quit Rents, and the Lands called or known as the Fishery Reserves; and also concerning the Remission to Tenants of Arrears of Rent, which have accrued due previous to the ——— day of ——— 1858, and which are now unpaid, be, and the same is hereby declared to be, valid and binding at law and in equity.

3. Be it further enacted, that in any action hereafter to be brought by any of the said Proprietors, their heirs, or assigns, against any such tenant, for the recovery of rent which may have accrued due previous to the day of , 1858, under any such demise as aforesaid, this Act (as to so much of the demand as relates to rent accrued due previous to such last mentioned date) shall be a good defence under the general issue, without the same being specially pleaded in bar thereto.

4. That nothing in this Act shall be construed to entitle the Tenant of any farm or lands, comprising any mill site or water-power, capable of being used for the driving of any saw or grist mill, to retain any such remission of arrears of rent, or a right to purchase the reversion thereof, as aforesaid.

5. That this Act shall not extend to any lease or demise where the unexpired term shall be less than twenty-one years; nor to any lease or demise of any farm or lands having, at the time of the granting thereof, any houses, buildings, or other improvements of that description thereon, unless such houses, buildings, or other improvements shall have been erected or placed thereon by such lessee, or some person from whom he may have received thereof before the granting of such lease.

6. That no Tenant shall be entitled to claim the right or option to purchase under this Act, unless all arrears of rent, and which may be recoverable by action, shall be first duly paid and satisfied.

7. That in case the Tenant shall desire to purchase between the periods or days on which the rent falls due, the same shall be apportioned, and the portion there found to be due, added to the purchase money, payable by such Tenant under the provisions of this Act.

8. That nothing in this Act shall extend to any lease made after the passing of this Act.

9. That no Landlord shall be compelled to sell under the provisions of this Act, unless the whole of the purchase money be tendered or offered to be paid.

SCHEDULE A.

Sir Samuel Cunard, Proprietor of Townships Numbers Two, Fourteen, Twenty-one, Thirty-two, Forty-four, Sixty-three, Sixty-four, and of halves of Townships Numbers Twenty, Forty-five, Forty-six, Forty-nine, and parts of Townships Eight, Forty-eight, Fifty-four, and Sixty-five; also one-third part of Township Twenty-seven.

Mr. Edward Cunard, Proprietor of Townships Numbers Four, Five, Six, and half of Township No. One.

Right Honorable Lawrence Sullivan, Proprietor of Townships Nos. Nine, Sixteen, Twenty-two, and Sixty-one.

Sir Graham Montgomery, Proprietor of the One-third parts of Townships Nos. Fifty-one, Fifty-nine, and Thirty-four.

Honorable Thomas Heath Haviland, Proprietor of Township Number Fifty-six, and parts of Townships Numbers Forty-three, Forty, and Eight.

Henry and Edward Palmer, Proprietors of half of Township Number One.

Mr. Daniel Hodgson, Proprietor of part of Township Number Twenty-three.

Mr. William Cundall, Proprietor of part of Township Number Twenty.

Mr. John A. McDonald, Proprietor of parts of Townships Numbers Thirty-five, and Thirty-six.

Mr. John R. Bourke, Proprietor of half of Township Number Thirty-seven.

James Montgomery, Esqr., One-third part of Townships Numbers Fifty-one, Fifty-nine, and Thirty-four.

We had nearly come to the conclusion to say nothing this week respecting the above extraordinary documents, thinking, perhaps, it would be well to let our readers recover from the astonishment and indignation with which they will peruse them, before adding one word of our own to excite their feelings; yet, we cannot refrain from saying a few words as merely preliminary to the many lengthy comments which the Proprietors' Bill will be very certain to call forth from ourselves and some of our correspondents in succeeding numbers.

Our readers will perceive that the despatch is dated the 5th April. It could not have failed to have arrived here between the 15th and 20th of that month, probably before the closing of the Legislature; it was not published until the 21st May—more than a month after its receipt. Why was all this delay allowed with regard to a matter of so much importance, or why are the documents published now? They were withheld, we have good reason to believe, at the instance of the Executive Council, because that body had not the courage to brave the public indignation which the Proprietors' Bill will be sure to arouse; and they are published now, we believe, by the imperative command of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, who felt, no doubt, the full weight of his responsibility to the Imperial authorities, and considered that further concealment would not be safe or judicious for him.

But let us consider the painful and humiliating lesson we learn from this proprietory dictation. We have two Houses of Legislature, and all the machinery of a Government, supposed to be independent of any power but that of the Crown. To carry on this Government costs us many thousands of pounds per annum. For the last three years the machinery of this Government has been exercised, at very great expense, in devising some means of eradicating a great chronic grievance. We have had resolutions, and speeches, and acts of Parliament innumerable about it—magnificent promises were held out by the party in power that the disease would be expelled from the body politic in less than eight months from the time the cure was applied; and we were positively assured that all the long suffering tenantry of this Island would be made happy and prosperous beyond their most sanguine expectations by the patriotic gentlemen at the head of affairs in this Colony, with Col. Gray as their guiding star. Then we had public meetings by the score, and addresses by the cart load, at, and in which toadying to men in power was done in the most approved fashion; and thousands of people clapped their hands and flung up their hats when they got the first glimpse of the Queen's Commission, delegating high but undefined powers to three distinguished Colonists, who were hastening to settle, in the most delightful manner, and according to their own judgment, all the vexatious disputes that have arisen out of the leasehold tenure. The House of Assembly undertook to pledge the good faith of the Colony that its inhabitants would abide the decision of the Royal Commission, whatever that decision might be: and it was fondly believed that the British Government and certain Proprietors, who were joint parties to the Commission, would also accept any Award that might be given. Then came the Royal Commissioners, in all their pomp and dignity; and the lawyers with their stuff and silken gowns, to spin out learned arguments in favor of the tenants and proprietors respectively; and there were Secretaries and Reporters to shed to the uttermost ends of the earth the light of knowledge with regard to tenant rights and tenant wrongs in this Island. And "their Excellencies" having opened their court,

"Ah! then and there was hurrying to and fro,
And gathering"—

of Delegates from all parts of the Island to give a fair account of the condition of the tenantry, which "their Excellencies" duly noted in their books. And then came the Spy, with his budget of lies, and his pen, ink, and paper, to falsify everything which the Delegates had said. The scene was then shifted to Rothsay, where the great Convention of Commissioners took place, to examine all the evidence that had been taken by the Spy and by themselves, where a great many quires of paper and many bushels of oysters were consumed in preparing the wonderful Report.

It is unnecessary to describe any more of the farce. All its scenes and incidents are well known to our readers—from the sending of the Report to England, where, after the formality of getting it printed, it was shot into the rubbish hole by the Duke of Newcastle, down to the egregious folly of passing Bills in this Colony, to give vitality to the miserable bantling that was strangled as soon as it had seen the light of the Colonial Office. The people know, too, or ought to know, that all these farcical proceedings have cost them about fifteen hundred pounds of good money—taking into account the expense attending the passing of the Bills of last Session—to say nothing of the anxiety, vexation, and disappointment they have endured. They know, likewise, that the landholders have been more oppressive in their dealings with their tenantry than ever they were in former years; and instituted ruinous actions to recover old arrears of rent, which some of those landholders thought might be swept away from them by the Award; while the tenantry were waiting and hoping for the promised relief under that measure.

Now, the farce of the Land Commission has come to a conclusion at last. We felt assured all along that it would disappear in a very ignominious manner from the public stage; but we did not expect to see a few of the proprietors coming forward and avowing that they had destroyed it, and offering to substitute an ugly abortion of their own.

These propositions are now incontrovertible: 1st—that no faith can be placed in the proprietors, for they have broken their solemn agreement to abide by the decision of the Commissioners, and thereby humbugged the House of Assembly and people of this Colony; and we regret to add, that Her Majesty's Colonial Minister has countenanced the violation of faith, and become a party to it. 2nd—that Sir Samuel Cunard and a few other landholders in England and in this Colony can override our Government and Legislature, and make slaves of our fellow colonists at their will. If our fellow colonists *will* consent to be slaves—if they will not assert their independence at the next election—let it come soon or late—they deserve to suffer all the punishment which the most odious tyranny can inflict. Nor let them forget that the Leader of the present Government, the Hon. Edward Palmer, is a consenting party to the iniquitous Bill now before them; his name figures in the preamble, where it is distinctly stated that he agrees to the arrangement proposed in that Bill; and his name again appears in the schedule. There is very little doubt on our mind that the Bill was framed by himself, or under his supervision—we have no doubt at all that it was drafted in this Island, and sent to Sir Samuel Cunard; and if Mr. Palmer is the author of the measure, or if he was cognizant of its preparation, he involves the whole Government in the duplicity of concocting such a Bill, or consenting to its concoction, at the very time, no doubt, when the Legislature here, under the direction of Mr. Palmer and Col. Gray, were enacting the expensive tomfoolery of passing two Bills to confirm the Award which Mr. Palmer and his colleagues had long before made up their minds to oppose, and which they knew would be rejected. It must be trying enough to the patience of any people to see their affairs mismanaged, as they are now; but to suffer quietly the additional wrong of being cajoled and deceived by their rulers, under the pretence, on the part of those rulers, of promoting the general welfare, requires the exercise of a degree of magnanimity which the human character has rarely exhibited, and which would be a positive disgrace to even a half-civilized community.

We have stated that we would offer only some preliminary remarks in our present No. We shall, of course, return to the subject in our next, when we will reprint the Bill; and fully expose the arbitrary and impracticable provisions of its several clauses.

WILL THERE BE A NEW ELECTION THIS SUMMER?

THE impatience of the people to get rid of the present proprietary Government is fully shown in the frequency with which the above question is asked. Country people especially are very earnest and very persevering in making the enquiry whenever they come to the city, because they seem to think that every person in Charlottetown does, or should, know the movements and intentions of the Government with regard to a general election; and the questioners almost invariably couple their interrogatory with a remark, to the effect, that when the election shall take place, the country will be fully revenged on the Government for the deceit that has been practised on them with regard to the Land Question, and the injury done to the country by the enormous increase of the public debt. It may seem strange that we, as one of the Opposition, should give publicity to a statement of this kind, as it cannot fail to alarm and distress the Government, and induce them to postpone, if possible, the period at which a general election shall be held, so that there may be time for a generous oblivion to hide some of their sins, and enable them to devise, out of the fullness of their capacity for deceit, some treacherous and mischievous project for still further imposing on the credulity of the people. But we see there is no use in keeping secrecy on the matter, if it were in our power to do so. The Government know—and they will be made to feel it, before another year, at most, shall pass away—that they are the most unpopular set of men that ever ruled the destinies of this country. The Old Family Compact Government — the much sinned against and sinning Old Family Compact—never used their power so disastrously for the interests of the people as the present dominant faction. The old Compact were a respectable set of despots—they acknowledged themselves as despots — they planned and carried out their measures in the face of day—they scorned the idea of being responsible to the people, and treated the people as serfs, as all high-handed despots do. But, with a first consideration for their own immediate interests, they did their best, we believe, to keep the country from going headlong to ruin—knowing their bread and butter depended on its prosperity—knowing, or believing, that their power was not of a four years duration, but that of a life-long tenure.

The present Government, on the contrary, knowing they will not be permitted to continue in office, after a new House of Assembly shall meet, are reckless of the ill consequences of their administration,—they had a majority of only one at the last general election,—chicanery, bigotry, and misrepresentation procured them that majority,—they increased it by two more in expelling from the House two members of the Liberal party who were, we believe, legally and constitutionally elected;—and ever since, they have carried on—as if it were natural to them—a system of deception the most shameless and stupendous that was ever practised in this or any other Colony, as their policy with regard to the Land Commission very clearly proves. We cannot suppose, therefore, that a Government which can be so characterised will be in a hurry to consummate their own destruction; and when asked it we think there will be a new election this summer, we have expressed our belief that there will not be one, as we think the Government have not courage enough to face the constituencies while they are so exceedingly unpopular, and while it is a matter of so much importance to have another year's pay secured for their dependents in office.

That there should be a general election this summer, there cannot be a shadow of doubt. Four regular sessions of the present House have been held at the usual and ordinary seasons; and although the election law states that the Parliament shall continue in being for four years, it was never contemplated that more than four regular Sessions should be held during the existence of any House. We do not think that any case can be pointed out, showing that that number has been exceeded under any one Parliament. It may, indeed, be necessary sometimes to hold an extra session in any one year that has witnessed a regular session, when some extraordinary and specific object calls for the intervention of the Legislature; but no general business is transacted in such Session. Yet, the Government may—and we believe some of the Executive Council have declared an intention to that effect—so construe the law as to enable them to eke out their political existence to the very last month of the four years, so that their dependents in office may live at the public expense as long as possible. If we consulted the interests of the Liberal party, without reference to the welfare of the whole Island, we should not be sorry if the Government carried out this intention, although the country might suffer in the meantime; because it would show that the Government themselves regard their prospects as extremely gloomy, and believe their political fortunes to be in a desperate condition. Besides, this stretching out of time, for the sake of official lucre, would so fully imbue the public mind with disgust at their meanness, that nothing which they can do between the present or ensuing summer and another session could save them from an overwhelming and crushing defeat. They have not done one good thing for the country during the time they have been in power,—every day serves to exhibit in more glaring light than was visible the previous day their duplicity with regard to the Land Question—in fact, they have not one rag of political reputation left to cover them,—and they are sure to be beaten whenever they come to the hustings. Delaying the election for a few months will give greater force and eclat to the triumph of Liberal principles, and add intensity to the hatred with which the people now regard proprietary domination.

WE are in receipt of the April number of the London Quarterly Review, from Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., New York. We have not had time to peruse the whole of the contents; but "Dorset," "The Life of Turner," "Stanhope's Life of Pitt," and "The Merrimac and Monitor," we have read with great interest, and we have no doubt the other articles will equally repay perusal.

☞ A Public Meeting will be held at the City Hall to-morrow (Tuesday,) at 11 o'clock, pursuant to a requisition to His Worship the Mayor, to take into consideration the propriety of sending two or three of the Island Volunteers to England, to compete for the Prizes of the National Rifle Association.—*Com.*